



Pupils bring own firewood to school in cold Romania

BUCHAREST (AP) — "Bring your own firewood" is the motto for children forced to go to school in parts of the depressed northern Romania. Pupils in Gura Humorului have been asked to bring their own firewood to keep the classrooms warm. The daily Zineasa said Monday that in one town, thousands of children last week refused to go to school to protest the situation. The Romanian education ministry is said to be in a dire state of emergency, with schools in which there are no electricity.

Oldest Dutch player hangs up his boots

LEIDEN (AP) — A 74-year-old grandfatherly figure hanging up his boots after half a century of playing, Johan Cruyff, the Dutch football legend, has decided to retire. Cruyff, who played for Ajax, the Netherlands national team, and the Dutch national team, played his last match for Ajax in 1973. He has since been a coach and a television commentator. He is now a member of the Dutch Football Federation's board of directors.

French book award goes to Chinese, U.S. authors

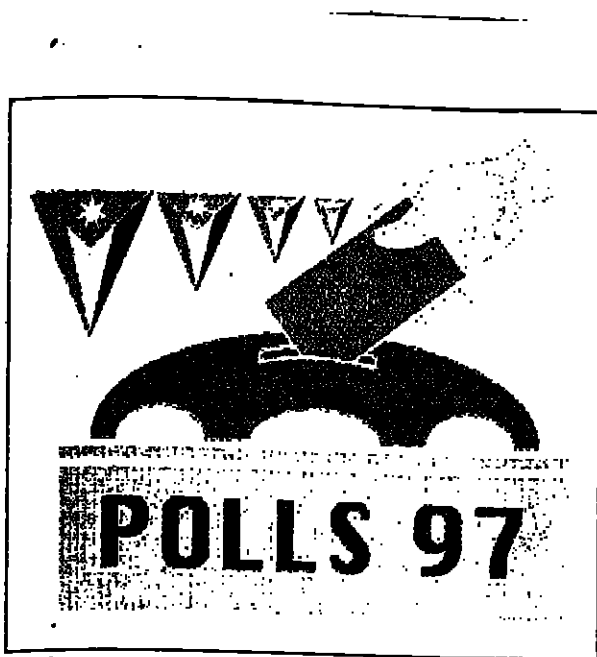
PARIS (AP) — The Prix Goncourt, one of France's most prestigious literary awards, has been won by a Chinese author, Gao Xingjian, and a U.S. author, Michael Ondaatje. The award is given annually to the best French-language novel published in France. Gao's 'Sour Milk' and Ondaatje's 'The Englishman's Boy' were the winners.

Spice Girls become new commodity

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Spice Girls, the five-member British pop group, have become a new commodity in the music industry. Their debut album, 'Spice Up Your Life', has sold over a million copies worldwide. The group's success has led to a surge in demand for their merchandise and live performances.

The Asian prime is a swindler

MANILA (AP) — A Philippine court has found a prominent Asian businessman guilty of swindling. The court sentenced him to prison for defrauding investors of millions of dollars. The case involved a complex financial scheme that collapsed, leaving many investors in financial ruin.

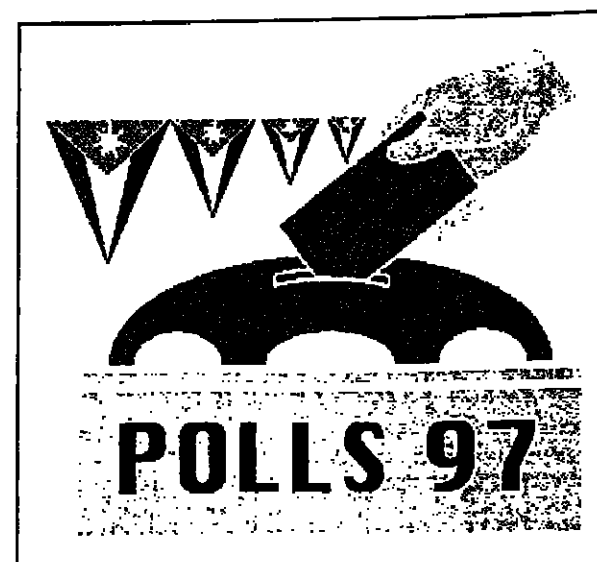


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AMMAN WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1997, RAJAB 5, 1418

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Jordanians elect 13th Parliament

National Constitutional Party, women biggest losers

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Independents, mostly centrists, swept the results of yesterday's general elections which were seen as a victory for democracy by officials and lacking in representativeness by the opposition that boycotted the polls. Only five candidates who ran on official party tickets won seats in the 80-member Lower House.

candidates won seats.

Women were also big losers in yesterday's elections.

None of the 17 women running was elected to the 13th Parliament, which will usher the Kingdom into the 21st century.

The big winners were the tribes, that filled half of the 80 Lower House seats, and Nayef Mula in Amman's 3rd District, who won against Toujan Faisal, the only woman deputy in the last Parliament.

A hot battlefield in an otherwise dull campaign, Amman's 3rd District witnessed the victory of Khalil Haddadin, secretary general of the Jordanian Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, who contested the Christian seat against prominent candi-

dates like Jordanian Unionist Democratic Party leader Issa Madanat and Jordanian Communist Party's Emily Naffa'a.

Parties representation appears weak in the newly elected Parliament.

Six of around 30 Islamists who defied the Muslim Brotherhood's boycott directive and contested the elections, made it to the dome.

Among them, former Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Abdullah Akaileh (Tafleeh) and former Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Mohammad Azaydeh (Madaba), who were expelled by the Brotherhood for running in the elections.

The boycott of the Muslim Brotherhood and its

political arm resulted in a 54.4 per cent turnout, but some say that the rainy weather too may have played a part in keeping

some voters away from the polls.

Following is a list of the winners in each of the Kingdom's 21 districts:

CONSTITUENCY	VOTES	PROFESSION/AFFILIATION
AMMAN:		
First District:		
1- Rashed Al Barayseh	4,780	Independent
2- Khalil Atiyeh	4,554	Contractor, independent
3- Hamada Faraneh	3,036	Journalist, independent
Second District:		
1- Abdul Majid Aqash	3,617	12th Parliament, Islamist
2- Mohammad Al Kouz	3,248	Former teacher/Whidat Youth Club
3- Mohammad Thweib	2,806	12th Parliament, centrist
Third District:		
1- Ali Abul Ragheb	4,287	12th Parliament
2- Raad Al Bakri	1,300	Engineer/Amman Municipality
3- Lutfi Barghouthi	1,042	Businessman/independent Islamist
4- Khalil Haddadin (Christian seat)	3,116	12th Parliament, Baathist
5- Nayef Mula (Circassian seat)	5,196	Former ambassador, Centrist
Fourth District:		
1- Birjes Al Hadid	9,763	Retired army officer, independent
2- Hamad Abu Zeid	4,465	Independent
Fifth District:		
1- Mohammad A. Hdeib	3,000	Physician, independent
2- Ahmad Owied Abbadi	2,778	11th Parliament, independent
3- Ahmad Al Ajameh	2,507	Independent
4- Assaf Al Assaf	2,305	former minister, 12th Parliament
5- Munir Sobar (Circassian seat)	1,969	
Madaba:		
1- Mohammad Al Azaidh	3,664	Independent, Islamist
2- Ali Abu Rbeha	2,785	engineer
3- Nashaat Harnaneh	2,601	(Christian seat) Physician, former Baathist
Jerash:		
1- Riadh Othman	4,335	Jerash refugees camp
2- Mifteh Rubaimi	4,192	12th Parliament

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein talks to journalists during a press conference at the election press centre Tuesday. Voters elected 80 members to the Lower House of Parliament Tuesday (Photo by Yousef 'Allan)

King: People have great duty in shaping future

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday said that the majority of the Jordanian people have exercised their right in determining their future by casting their votes in the national elections.

However, the King said: "We are interested in having an active and influential Lower House, which directs attention to the many concerns of the country."

The King said that the government will play its role in cooperating with the House, adding that the two will not be competing with each other but rather complement each other's work through meaningful dialogue.

"I believe Jordan will remain very strong when its people feel that they have a great duty and that they share the responsibility of shaping the future of their country," the King said in remarks to reporters at the press centre set up to monitor the elections process.

Warning that challenges and dangers are great, the King stressed that "it is our duty to counter these challenges and dangers in the future."

On future steps to enhance the democratic process in Jordan, King Hussein said: "We are waiting for the results of the elections and we will then prepare for opening the 13th Parliament's ordinary session in due time, and will continue along this path to strengthen democracy."

The King emphasised that the parliamentary elections this year were the fairest elections so far in the country, noting that "it is not the end of the road, as we have a great deal to do in the future, to learn from our experiences, to improve our lives as best as we can."

Responding to a question on future plans to change the present election law, King Hussein said the present elections have showed that many things need to be reexamined. The King cited as examples the rights of the Jordanians abroad to elect their representatives and the need for a mechanism to enable them to do so, and the rights of civil servants, who are supervising the election process, also to vote.

On his hopes for the future, King Hussein said that he has many hopes. "No country can link its future to one individual, but collectively, leadership and people can work together to achieve something worthy of them, and my happiness is seeing Jordanians realise that and partake in shaping the future," the King said.

"We insist to be a model for those wishing to follow the path of democracy, and respect human rights, and ensure participation in the decision-making process."

Responding to another question, the King said that those people who claim that the new House might pass decisions related to the final solution to the Palestinian problem are "sick people."

On the current situation in Iraq, King Hussein said he hoped that the situation in Iraq would be handled in an acceptable manner, that will avert any new explosion.

"Such accusations cannot be accepted nor tolerated by the Jordanian people," King Hussein said, noting that the House is elected by the people and will carry out its duties in all integrity and in a responsible manner.

"These are only attempts to offend this country by a small group which is on a different wavelength from the vast majority of the people," the King added.

Asked if the newly elected House will contribute to any attempts to revitalise the peace process with Israel, King Hussein said: "The peace process does not hinge on Jordan nor on what Jordan wishes. Jordan believes in peace, and strives to achieve a just, honourable and comprehensive peace in this entire region. The resumption of the peace process depends mainly on whether there is a genuine desire at the official Israeli side to advance towards peace. This is the problem. This is the ordeal, and this question should be addressed to the Israeli government and the Israeli prime minister."

"The people are the most honest and fair judge [of the situation] and they are the power that will build this country," the King said.

Responding to questions from journalists, King Hussein said that even in advanced democracies people tend not to fully participate in the election process.

The King, accompanied by HRH Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other officials, earlier visited the Ministry of Interior.

Responding to a question on whether the next government will include deputies, the King said that any separation between the executive and legislative authorities will depend on the circumstances, noting that he has not so far taken any final

decision. The King said that the rainy weather too may have played a part in keeping some voters away from the polls.

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44% turnout at Tuesday's polls

By Francesca Ciriaci Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Less than 55 per cent (54.6 per cent) of voter card-holders or 44.27 per cent of registered voters turned out at yesterday's polls to elect Jordan's 13th Parliament.

Such figures confirm a trend already apparent in the 1989 and 1993 elections, when two other traditional constituencies, the Northern Bedouin District and the Ma'an Governorate saw the highest turnout, respectively.

However, some clashes fuelled by tribal disputes were unofficially reported in some traditional areas.

Apathy, weather keep voters away

By Ghalia Alul, Fairouz Abu-Ghazaleh and Alia Shukri Hamzeh Jordan Times Staff Reporters

THERE WAS nothing extraordinary about the long-awaited election day. But the gloomy weather and heavy rains were an added incentive for many reluctant voters to stay away from the polls and enjoy the day off away from what some thought was a "useless process."

"I don't believe in anyone. When candidates sit on the seat, they forget the promises they made to the people," a 26-year-old resident of the Third District said Tuesday.

A Zarqa shopkeeper agreed, preferring to tend his shop rather than "wasting time" casting his vote.

"Candidates only think about getting famous, their promises mean nothing because they are never fulfilled," he said.

Optimists, however, preferred to exercise their national right hoping their votes would help "worthy" candidates secure a seat in the upcoming Parliament.

A 32-year-old Zarqa resident said people should have faith in the election process.

"I gave my vote to an educated contestant who I think is aware of our needs and concerns," she said.

Mazyounah, a 65-year-old woman, clad in a traditional embroidered dress, cast her vote "because it is a right and it is a national duty, and not a manifestation of one's confidence in the upcoming Parliament."

"The last Parliament did very little and this one will not do much," she said.

On the other hand, younger voters were more hopeful that the new House would make a difference.

"I hope this new Parliament will improve my life, I don't want a parliament that only talks, I want a parliament that can do things for the people and address their concerns," a 25-year-old woman said.

Despite the enthusiasm expressed by some, the country witnessed a poor voter turnout of 54 per cent, significantly lower than the 62 and 68 per cent in 1989 and 1993 elections.

The densely populated Zarqa governorate and Amman's less affluent Second District, witnessed the lowest turnout in yesterday's polls, with an overall percentage of 29 each.

(Continued on page 7)

tered in the southern constituency of Tafleeh, while the lowest ratio of voters to card-holders (26.2 per cent) was in Amman's 2nd District, home to many Palestinian refugees and bedrock of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Such figures confirm a trend already apparent in the 1989 and 1993 elections, when two other traditional constituencies, the Northern Bedouin District and the Ma'an Governorate saw the highest turnout, respectively.

The official spokesperson for the elections, Mazen Arnouti, was appointed one week before the polls with the task of "projecting Jordan's true democratic image."

Measures by the government included the cancellation of 120,000 repeated and dead people's names from the original voting lists of over 1.9 million.

Fifteen candidates running in Amman's 1st and 5th Districts were summoned by the authorities under charges of election fraud: 4 were arrested and 11 referred to the prosecutor general for collecting hundreds of voting cards with forged power of attorney documents.

Dr. Arnouti told reporters that "it is better late than never," but independent observers and opposition candidates described the measures as inadequate and insisted the 13th Parliament's credentials are not as immaculate as they should be.

Balqa and Irbid witnessed a higher turnout, both with 57 per cent of card-holders casting their ballots.

Counting procedures started shortly after voting stations closed at 7 p.m.

As the number of voting centres (3,689) was significantly higher than in the two last elections (1,159 and 1,109 in 1993 and 1989 respectively), the authorities did not consider extending voting time in some remote areas, a decision made in previous elections.

Voters went to the polls from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., and officials at the Ministry of Interior said voting went smoothly in all 21

districts of the Kingdom.

However, some clashes fuelled by tribal disputes were unofficially reported in some traditional areas.

The three-week campaign period, which started October 14, was troubled by widespread claims of election fraud and emergency measures by the government to correct irregularities.

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ALGIERS (AFP) — Three civilians were killed and seven hurt in two blasts around the Algerian capital, one caused by a bomb and the other by a shell from a homemade mortar, several newspapers reported Tuesday.

A homemade mortar was fired from a forest and hit a house on Monday at Ouled Ali, 30 kilometres southeast of Algiers, killing one person and wounding four others.

Two other civilians were killed and three injured in a bomb blast on Sunday night on a housing estate at Ain Tagourait, 50 kilometres west of the capital.

Both explosions caused

The Algerian army meanwhile pursued offensives against Islamist extremists waging a bloody campaign against the secular regime, killing four armed men in their hideout at Kef Lahmar in the Medea region, 80 kilometres south of Algiers, while two other fundamentalists were killed in the southeastern Sétif region.

The military was also active, according to press reports, in the Bainein forest on the outskirts of the capital, where soldiers dynamited a cave which had been used as a refuge by Islamists.

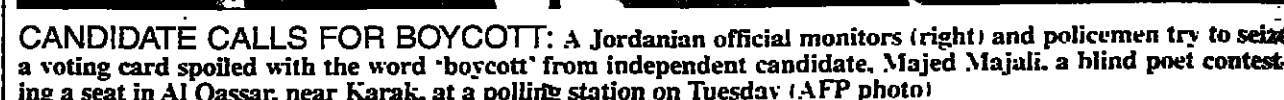
The troops found two

decomposing bodies which were thought likely to have been those of young women abducted some months ago on the hillsides of the city. Several papers said, with the El Khabar daily publishing a frontpage photo of a skull and human remains wrapped in cloth. The thickly wooded Baimen region, once used for excursions by residents of Algiers, has become a base for members of one wing of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which took up arms against the authorities and began targeting civilians in 1992.

vened in January 1992 to cancel the second round of general elections the now outlaid Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

The bloodshed has claimed at least 60,000 lives, many of them those of civilians, according to Western estimates.

Elected President Liamine Zeroul's army-backed government has repeatedly stated that most of the remaining violence is residual activity by terrorist groups. It last month staged local council elections, which have led to protests by opposition parties alleging vote-rigging.



OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli police accused the Palestinian National Authority Tuesday of illegally detaining an Arab-Israeli citizen and demanded his immediate release. Israel Radio reported.

Palestinian Attorney General Faysel Abu Rahmeh said he knew nothing about the missing Israeli. Taissir Ziyada, from Ramleh near

Israel Radio said Ziyada disappeared three months ago when visiting the Gaza Strip and police suspect he was detained by Force 17, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's "presidential guard."

Repeated Israeli requests for Ziyada's release have gone unanswered, the radio said.

NAQOURA (AFP) — The International committee monitoring the ceasefire accord in south Lebanon met Tuesday to discuss an Israeli complaint over an alleged truce violation, officials said.

The panel convened for the 22nd time this year, at the headquarters of the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon in the town of Naqoura near the Israeli border.

A source close to the Lebanese delegation said Israel was not entitled to file a complaint over the injury of Lebanese civilians — a claim contested by Israel which holds itself responsible for the safety of inhabitants of its "security zone."

DAMASCUS (AP) — Torrential rains and floods that swept much of the country for the past five days have killed at least seven people, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

Flooding killed three women and a man in Damascus and severely injured a 9-year-old boy. One of the women died under the rubble of her house, said the daily *Al Baath*, newspaper of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party.

It said a five-year-old boy was killed in Khan Al Sheih area, 25 kilometres southwest of the capital, where 60 houses and several farms were

Most seriously affected was Al Raqqa province 547 kilometres northwest of Damascus which also was hit by a cyclone that killed two men and more than 2,000 head of livestock and caused widespread crop damage.

The newspaper said a hailstorm swept through Palmyra province, 240 kilometres northeast of the capital, causing damage to houses and farms. The paper said the hailstones were as big as eggs.

Weather forecasts call for more heavy rains.

plaint to the committee that a Hizbollah bombardment Sunday in Rihaan killed one southern Lebanese civilian and damaged houses.

Hizbollah, which spearheads the guerrilla war to force Israel to withdraw from its self-declared "security zone" in

The panel — made up of representatives of France, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and the U.S. — was formed in April 1996 to monitor the ceasefire between Israel and Hizbollah.

DUBAI, U.A.E. — Saudi Arabia plans to introduce its own version of the information superhighway within months, a Saudi newspaper quoted an official on Tuesday as saying. Saudi Gazette quoted the head of the King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) as saying that a study had been completed on how to prevent "objectionable material that goes against the country's

"Dr. Saleh Al Athel...said yesterday that the Internet will be introduced within four or five months," the newspaper said, adding the Saudi cabinet had asked KACST to introduce the service.

It did not specify what types of material would be prevented

Sharon m Lebanon

Isolated Israel

In a 100-page ruling, the court rejected a libel suit filed by Sharon against the Haaretz newspaper for reporting in a 1991 article that he had sent troops to Beirut in violation of

Sharon, who is now national infrastructure minister, has always claimed that the operation drove northwards to Beirut due to unforeseen

But the Haaretz article said Sharon had planned from the beginning to reach the Lebanese capital and misled Begin about his intentions. Tuesday's court ruling backed the Haaretz version of events.

"This means that Sharon must leave government office and return to his farm," said the author of the Haaretz article, Uzi Benziman.

the ruling to the supreme court, his attorney, Dov Weissglass, told Israeli Radio. "This ruling will not stand up to the facts or the rule of law," he said.

Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who succeeded Begin, withdrew Israeli troops from most of Lebanon in 1985, leaving a self-declared "security zone" in the south of Lebanon.

He provided no further details of the trip, which coincides with the start of the Palestinian peace negotiations.

ails of President Arafat, though high-level Israeli officials in the United States.

ANKARA (AFP) — A contract for the construction of a massive hydro-electric dam on the Coruh River in the north east of Turkey was signed here on Tuesday.

The contract was signed by the Turkish energy ministry and a consortium of Turkish, Russian and Swiss companies.

The dam, called "Deriner" and

The work is to cost \$711 million and to last seven years, the ministry said. The dam would be 247 metres high and would be the fifth biggest in the world and the biggest in Turkey.

The consortium comprises Turk-Erg of Turkey, Technostroyexport of Russia and ABB Sulzer Hydro, Hydro Energie and Stucky of Switzerland.

NAIROBI (AFP) — Peace talks between representatives of the Khartoum regime and southern Sudanese rebels resumed in the Kenyan capital on Tuesday afternoon, a rebel official said.

The talks between John Garang's Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) and Khartoum's Islamic junta

opened last Wednesday to explore ways of ending their 14-year-old civil war.

It erupted in 1983 when the SPLA took up arms to end domination of the mainly Christian and animist southern Sudan by the north.

Separation of state and religion and self-determination for southern Sudan are expected.

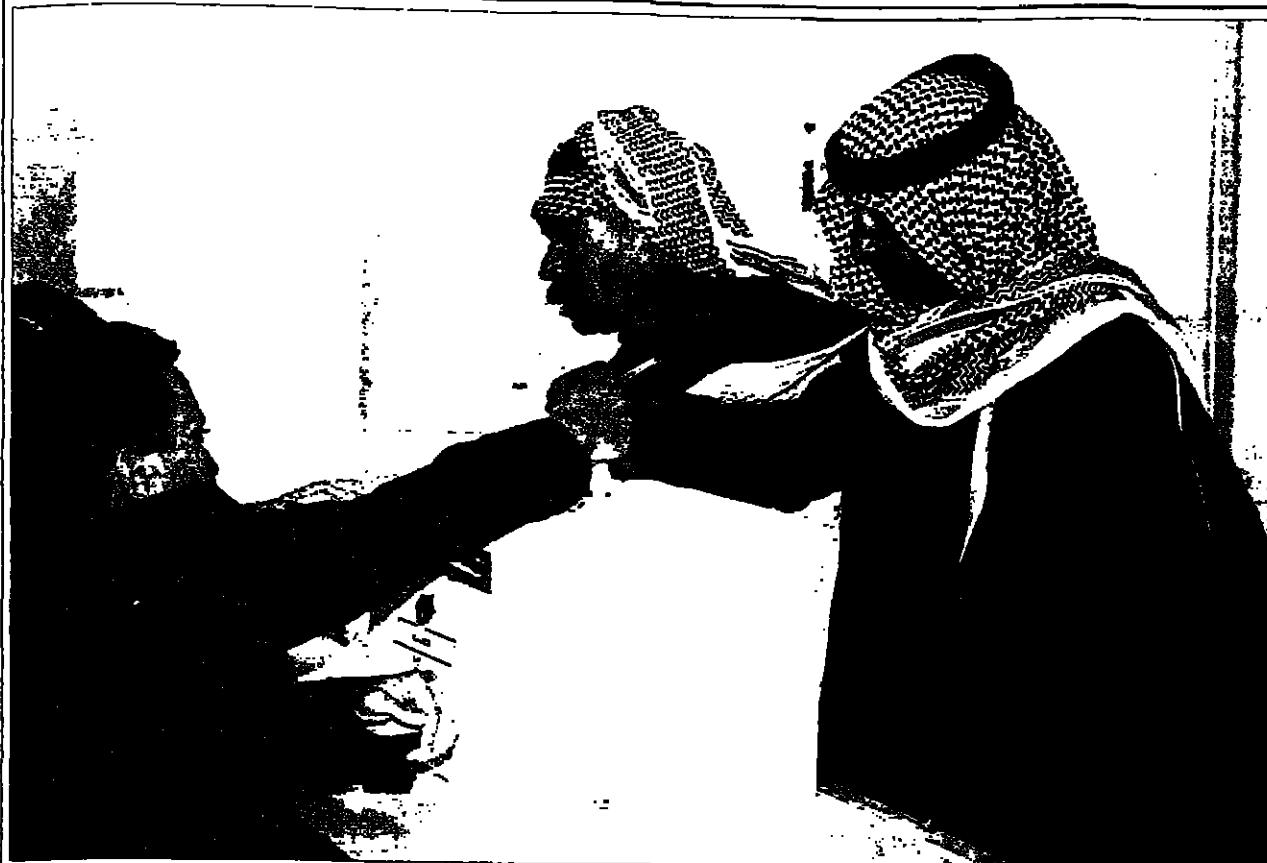
The Sudanese government delegation is headed by Foreign Minister Ali Osman Mohammad Taha and the SPLA by its second-in-command, Salva Kiir.

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PROGRAMME TWO 14:10.....Jonny Quest 14:30.....Super Dave 15:00 Secrets of Treasure Island 15:30.....Spell Binder 15:40.....Monsters Today 16:10.....Border Town 16:30.....Neighbours 17:00.....French Programmes 19:00.....News in French 19:30.....News Headlines 19:35.....Doc. — High Tech Culture 20:00.....Comedy — Some One Like Me 20:30.....Challenges 21:10.....Kung Fu 22:00.....News in English 22:30.....Land's End 23:15.....American Gothic		661757. Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366 Anglican Church Tel. 652826. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tel. 3516245 Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 8243328. German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 688404 The Latter-day Saints Tel. 634932. Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691. The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295 English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.		EMERGENCIES Food Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341 Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111. 637777 Fire Brigade617101 Blood Bank775121 Highway Police843402 Traffic Police936390 Public Security Department 630321 Hotel Complaints605800 Price Complaints661176 Water and Sewerage Complaints39 7467 Amman Municipality Complaints787111 Telephone Information (directory assistance).....121 Overseas Calls010230 Central Amman Telephone Repairs623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 Jordan Television773111 Radio Jordan774111 Water Authority680100 Jordan Electricity Authority 815615 Electric Power Company 636581 RJ Flight Information 08- 53200			Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08- 53200 HOSPITALS AMMAN: Husseln Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity , 644281/6 Aklieh Maternity , 642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. Amman636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 607071 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37 Al-Ahli, Abdali664164/6 Italian, Al-Muhajir 77101/3 Al-Bashir775111/26 Army, Marka891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50 Amal Hospital674155 The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery865199 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560 Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990 IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital			(02)272275 Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100 AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) infor- mation department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250). ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights 07:25.....Damascus (RJ) 07:50.....Larnaca (RJ) 08:35.....Jeddah (RJ) 08:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 15:15 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 16:35.....Frankfurt (RJ) 16:50.....Istanbul (RJ) 17:05.....Paris (RJ) 17:45.....Madrid, Geneva (RJ) 17:50.....Brussels, Vienna (RJ) 18:10.....London, Berlin (RJ) 18:10.....Rome (RJ) 23:10.....Beirut (RJ)			00:05.....Cairo (RJ) Other Flights 05:50.....Bucharest (RO) 09:30.....Cairo (MS) 09:30.....Al 'Arish (PF) 10:15 Doha, Al Hudaidah (YF) 10:30.....Jeddah (SV) 10:50.....Kuwait (KU) 13:10.....Tunis (TU) 13:25 Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF) 13:50.....Tel Aviv (LY) 14:30.....Doha (QR) 15:05.....Vienna (OS) 15:30.....Algiers (AH) 16:05 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK) 20:10.....Beirut (ME) 21:10.....Paris, Damascus (AF) 22:30.....Athens (OA) 23:15.....London (BA) 23:30.....London, Beirut (BA) 23:35.....Amsterdam (KL) ROYAL WINGS (RW) 07:45.....Agaba (RW) 09:05.....Amman (QAIA) (RW) 09:50.....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW) 17:20.....Tel Aviv (RW) 18:30.....Amman (QAIA) (RW) 21:20.....Agaba (RW) 22:50.....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW) DEPARTURES 08:45 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 09:45.....Rome (RJ) 10:40.....Berlin, London (RJ) 11:00.....Istanbul (RJ)			19:10.....Colombo (RJ) 19:35.....Beirut (RJ) 20:05.....Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ) 20:10.....Cairo (RJ) 20:15.....Bombay (RJ) 20:15.....Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 20:30.....New Delhi (RJ) 21:00 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ) 21:15.....Dubai, Muscat (RJ) 22:45.....Sanaa (RJ) Other Flights 00:35.....Amsterdam (KL) 01:55.....Bucharest (RO) 06:35.....Larnaca (CY) 08:00.....Beirut (ME) 08:25.....London (BA) 10:30.....Cairo (MS) 10:30.....Al 'Arish (PF) 11:15 Al Hudaidah, Aden (YF) 12:00.....Kuwait (KU) 12:00.....Jeddah (SV) 14:10.....Tunis (TU) 14:20.....Sharjah (AH) 15:15.....Bahrain, Muscat (GF) 15:10.....Tel Aviv (LY) 15:30.....Doha (QR) 15:50.....Vienna (OS) 19:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK) 23:55.....Damascus, Paris (AF) Royal Wings (RW) 06:45.....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW) 08:15.....Agaba (RW) 09:30.....Amman (QAIA) (RW) 16:45.....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW) 17:55.....Tel Aviv (RW) 20:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW) 21:50.....Agaba (RW)	
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13th Parliamentary Elections

Scenes from around the Kingdom



PARTICIPATING IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS: Two bedouins wearing the traditional red and white checkered kaffiya Tuesday cast their ballots at a voting center in the southern part of the Kingdom (Petra photo)



EXERCISING A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT: A woman Tuesday puts her vote in the ballot box under the watchful eye of an elections observer. Many candidates employed elections-watchers to ensure the fairness of the polls (Petra photo)



LAST MINUTE DECISIONS: Three voters consult before entering the polling station Tuesday to elect their candidate (Petra photo)

Majali tours polling stations, praises voter turnout

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday toured a number of polling stations in Amman and Madaba and described the voting process as going smoothly and the voter turnout as good.

"Some of the voters are affiliated with political parties who announced their decision to boycott," the prime minister said in remarks to the press.

"The voter turnout was good despite the prevailing unfavourable weather conditions," according to Dr. Majali, who said at least 25 per cent of the registered

voters in Madaba and Karak, as well as the suburbs of Amman, cast ballots before noon.

Stating that the great number of voting centres helped prevent congestion in the streets and at the polling stations, Dr. Majali said the original voting period was from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., but there is a possibility for extending the closing time until 9 p.m.

Dr. Majali, who also visited the central operations room at the Ministry of Interior, issued a final appeal to those boycotting the elections to reconsider.

He called on citizens whose names occur more than once in the voter lists to refrain from voting twice, stating that this is a violation of the law.

Replying to accusations that there will be irregularities, the prime minister said anyone can monitor the elections.

He said although some of the results may appear by midnight, the full results are not expected before Wednesday morning.

When asked if the government will resign after the elections, Dr. Majali replied that there is no provision in the Constitution

stating that the government need resign.

After the previous elections, the same government continued in office for another six months, he said.

Referring to Jordan's participation in the upcoming Doha economic meeting, the prime minister noted that the decision was left to the individual Arab countries to decide for themselves as there was no collective decision taken at the level of the Arab League to boycott or attend the meeting.

Jordan will take part in the meeting, which repre-

sents one of the off-shoots of the peace process.

"We are going to the Doha meeting, as we did in the previous meetings, despite the current deadlock in the peace process. We hope that the Palestinians and Israelis who are holding negotiations in Washington will achieve a breakthrough," Dr. Majali said.

At the Doha economic summit, he added, Jordan is expected to hold meetings with business communities from 85 nations and encourage them to invest in the Kingdom.

Diplomats express satisfaction with elections process

AMMAN (Petra) — Two foreign diplomats visited a number of voting stations in Jordan and expressed satisfaction with the facilities, arrangements, and discipline displayed at the centres.

Japanese ambassador to Jordan Takayuki Kimura said his country has been electing deputies to its parliament on the basis of the one-person, one-vote system for the past 100 years.

Japan provided Jordan with \$2.3 million worth of equipment and computers to help it carry out the general elections, he said.

Ingrid Liedgens, the press attaché at the German embassy, visited a number of polling stations before noon and expressed appreciation of the measures taken to ensure fair and free elections.

The parliamentary systems of Jordan and Germany resemble each other to a great extent, according to

Ms. Liedgens.

She said the one-person, one-vote system has proven to be very efficient and practical in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid Tuesday said after several diplomats from the European Union nations asked to tour the polling stations, he offered special cards enabling them to inspect centres anywhere in Jordan.

Mr. Rashid said all 3,689 ballot boxes were opened at 7 a.m. and will close at 7 p.m., adding that there was no need for extending the time limit, except perhaps at a few remote centres due to a large turnout.

The full results of these elections cannot be known before at least 6 a.m. Wednesday, according to the minister, adding that he will hold a press conference Wednesday to announce the official results.



AMBASSADOR INSPECTS ELECTIONS: The British ambassador to Jordan, Christopher Battiscombe (left), Tuesday checks a list of names at a polling station. 'It all seems to be going smoothly, I think the only problem perhaps is the weather, which may be deterring people from coming' said Battiscombe, who clarified that he was not here 'as an official observer' (AFP photo)

Health professionals to return to work with situation unresolved

Dajani responsible for inciting strikes — Health minister

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Public sector health professionals will go back to work today and tomorrow according to statements they published in the local press, but the professional associations said they will hold a meeting Wednesday to discuss the situation.

The pharmacists, dentists, and doctors who have been staging on and off strikes at the country's health centres and hospitals are still maintaining their demands for higher salaries, more allowances, and better working conditions, which they say the government had

promised them.

Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi was quoted by the local press Tuesday as saying that he placed the blame on the professional associations, adding that he held Basem Dajani, president of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA), responsible for inciting the health professionals to strike.

Dr. Dajani is also spokesperson for the striking health professionals.

Dr. Kurdi warned that he will refer the striking professionals who have neglected their duty in treating patients to court, and accused the three associations of sup-

porting those groups boycotting the general elections.

Meanwhile, the heads of the three associations have invited the former presidents of the associations and former ministers of health to a meeting to discuss the situation and find a solution to the deadlock.

At least two of the former JMA presidents said they support the doctors' demand for better pay.

Ishaq Maraga said he supported the health professionals' demands, adding that the strikers are willing to desist once they receive a pledge from the government that their demands will be met.

Abdul Rahim Malhas said

the doctors' demands are legitimate, because comparisons with their colleagues at Jordan University Hospital and the Royal Medical Services indicate they receive higher pay and enjoy better working conditions.

According to the associations, the minister of health and medical care promised the health professionals that the ministry would give them 60 per cent of the JD793,000 fund of treatment fees collected from the public.

However, they said the minister reneged and offered them only 36 per cent.

In an interview with the press Tuesday, the minister

denied that he had made that promise.

He also stated that he had the prerogative of dissolving the JMA, but has not taken a decision in that direction yet.

Health department directors in several governorates Tuesday took a different stand from the striking professionals by announcing that they were responding to His Majesty King Hussein's call for them to return to work.

In a statement, the directors said the work stoppage is against both the national interest and the interests of the strikers.

WHAT'S GOING

FILM
* Children's film "A Little Princess" at the British Council, Jabel Amman at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS
* Exhibition of wicker accessories from Wadi Rayan, handicrafts and gift items at the Jordan Rivers Designs showroom (Tel. 613081), until Nov. 23.
* Works by Su'ad Ibrahim entitled "The Soul Rest" at Hamourabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 553098), until Nov. 11.
* Paintings by Patrice Cadene at the French Cultural Centre, Jabel Amman, until Nov. 26.
* Graphics exhibition by Abdul Wahab Abdul Mohsen at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5537598), until Nov. 5.
* Works by Bahraini artist Sheikh Rashid Al Khalifa at Darat Al Funun, Jabel Weibdeh, until Nov. 15. Also displaying a new collection of works by contemporary Arab artists (Tel. 643251/2).

International air transport conference concludes

AMMAN (Petra) — The International Air Transport Association (IATA) Tuesday concluded its two-day meeting in Amman, announcing that the goals on the agenda were met and resolutions benefiting the air transport industry were passed.

The announcement was made by Royal Jordanian President Nader Dahabi, who said the participants passed resolutions and recommendations designed to further promote air transport services, air safety and security, air traffic control, airport services, and investments in the air industry.

IATA President Pierre Jeannot said the association, which is concerned mainly with providing facilities to and ensuring safety for passengers, has requested that governments remove many of the restrictions and measures that impede air transport while maintaining safety precautions.

IATA, he said, considers itself the umbrella of the air transport industry and is keen on supporting airlines' efforts to remove obstacles.

The delegates discussed topics ranging from flight crew training to the supply of high technology equipment and maintenance services in the air transport industry.

The meeting agreed that the next IATA meeting will be held in June in Montreal. It was also decided that future IATA meetings will be held in Argentina in 1999, Australia in 2000, Western Europe in 2001, and South Korea in 2002.

Mr. Jeannot announced that IATA has decided to create an annual scholarship for Jordanians graduating from the Amman Hotel training centre to receive advanced training in tourism and hotel management.

The scholarship has been created in the name of His Majesty King Hussein in recognition of the King's efforts to promote the air transport industry, he added.

Leaders pledge closer ties in troubled Balkans

AGIA PELAGIA, Greece (R) — Balkan nations called Tuesday for their blood-stained history to be put behind them and be replaced by an era of peace and prosperity.

Greece, Turkey, Romania, Yugoslavia, Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Bulgaria and Bosnia ended a two-day summit on the island of Crete agreeing to create a framework for economic growth and political cooperation.

"We shall work together to create in our region conditions for the prosperity of our nations in a framework of peace, security, good-neighbourliness and stability," they said in a final declaration.

But the leaders did not have to look far to see how difficult a task they face.

A bilateral meeting between prime ministers Costas Simitis of Greece

and Mesut Yilmaz of Turkey Monday made scant progress in solving the two countries' festering problems over Cyprus and the Aegean.

Despite the failure, the Balkan nations all said they were determined to build closer regional ties — accepting that it would take time.

"The road is still long, these countries, like us have problems. But we hope that with time they will be able to face them," Mr. Simitis said.

The region's oldest and longest-serving leader agreed.

"Dialogue, patience and willingness to hear and understand are the only ways we can gradually create a different picture of the Balkans," FYROM President Kiro Gligorov told reporters.

The Balkan nations, plagued for centuries by

ethnic hostilities, pledged to support the rule of law, and to fight crime and drug smuggling across their region.

The leaders set up the framework for future links, agreeing to hold another summit in Turkey next year, along with annual meetings of their foreign and finance ministers.

They also said they would harmonise their laws and break down trade barriers, which most of them are already doing as part of hopes eventually to join the European Union. Only Greece is currently a member.

The failure of the Simitis-Yilmaz meeting to make any breakthrough in relations had been predicted in advance by officials.

Mr. Simitis said after the talks Monday that both sides had repeated well-known positions over issues such as Cyprus and territorial

rights in the Aegean. Both men, however, pledged to work to ease tensions. Mr. Yilmaz invited Mr. Simitis to Turkey, an offer the Greek said he would accept when the time was right.

"It is of great importance that we meticulously refrain from tensions and actions which might bring us to a point of possible conflict," Mr. Yilmaz said in a statement.

The two countries have spent the past few weeks accusing each other of aggressive behaviour in the eastern Mediterranean.

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and Albanian Prime Minister Fatos Nano also met on the sidelines of the summit to discuss the incendiary issue of the ethnically divided Kosovo region.

The two agreed to start normalising relations after 50 years alienation.

Pakistan government vows to arrest killers of Muslim scholars

KARACHI (AFP) — Pakistan vowed to step up its war against terrorism Tuesday following the weekend assassination of scholars of an influential Islamic seminary here.

Interior Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, calling the weekend killings an "act of terrorism," visited the Jamia Binnoria seminary to which the slain Sunni Muslim scholars belonged.

"We will not spare the culprits and deal with terrorists with iron hands," he said.

Two unidentified men riding a motorbike Sunday lobbed a grenade into a pickup and also fired bursts with automatic weapons, killing the principal of Jamia Binnoria, Habibullah

Mukhtar, and two of his colleagues. Police said two special teams were investigating the killings.

Leaders of religious parties have already given a call for a strike in Karachi Friday.

Appealing to the people to observe country-wide protest on that day, they termed the incident a "conspiracy" to eliminate Muslim scholars.

Angry students of religious institutions burnt tyres and blocked traffic after setting some banks and shops afire and hurled stones at police Sunday and Monday, witnesses said.

The Karachi administration said the situation was under control and the barricades erected by religious

students during two days of violence had been removed. Traffic resumed but remained thin in eastern parts of the city where some shops were opened.

Security has been beefed up around mosques to avoid sectarian violence, the city police chief Malik Iqbal said.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack which religious figures said was meant to ignite sectarian violence.

Police suspect the grenade attack might be linked to the rivalry between militants of a Sunni extremist group Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) and a Shiite extremist faction Sipah-i-Mohammad Pakistan (SMP).

First defence witnesses to appear in Rwanda genocide trials

NAIROBI (AFP) — The first witnesses to testify in defence of Rwandans accused of genocide will soon appear before a U.N. court, after being flown there from Rwanda where they are jailed, the court said Tuesday.

Three witnesses will be brought from the Rwandan capital Kigali to the International Criminal Tribunal's premises in Arusha, Tanzania, according to a statement from the U.N.-established court received in Nairobi.

"The Rwandan government agreed, on Oct. 30, to the transfer of three persons detained in Rwanda prisons, so that they may appear as witnesses in defence of Jean-Paul Akayesu," the statement said.

Mr. Akayesu, a former district official under the late Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana, was the first senior Rwandan whose substantive trial got under way

in Arusha in connection with the genocide of more than half a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in 1994.

Until now, only witnesses for the prosecution have testified before the court, set up by the U.N. Security Council late in 1994 to try those held primarily responsible for mass murder that year, when rebels of the Tutsi minority seized power in July after three months of bloodletting.

The court has begun hearing two other cases since the Akayesu trial began last Jan. 9. In all, 21 suspects are currently being held in cells in Arusha, charged with genocide and crimes against humanity. They face possible life jail terms.

Thousands of other suspects are detained in overcrowded jails in Rwanda, where the genocidal civil war long left the legal system of the Central African country in tatters.

The three witnesses to be flown to Arusha are currently imprisoned in the central Rwandan town of Taba, where Mr. Akayesu was major during the ethnic war. "Their transfer is imminent and will probably take place some time this week," the tribunal stated. "It is the first time such a decision has been made."

"The witnesses were called for by Mr. Akayesu's lawyer Nicolas Tiangaye."

"The speed with which the Rwandan authorities acceded to this request shows the good cooperation between the criminal institution and the Rwandan leaders, particularly since the success of Operation NAKI (Nairobi-Kigali), launched last July by the tribunal to arrest top-level figures suspected of having played a key role in the 1994 genocide," Agwu Okali, the Nigerian clerk of the tribunal said.

Mayhem erupts during 'free' money grab

ROME (AFP) — Mayhem broke loose when an agitated crowd of 8,000 people Tuesday morning learned a Radical Party's plan to hand out cash to the masses had been suspended and took its anger out on police officers.

The Radical Party, headed by Marco Pannella, had planned to give 50,000 lire (\$30) to each person in the crowd, but put the cash distribution on hold after metal barricades set up by police were thrown down and scuffles broke out.

Mr. Pannella's party,

known for its provocations of every ilk, regularly distributes "free" money during public rallies to "give back to the people" the 2.7 billion Italian lire the state normally provides as financing for political parties.

Money is not all the party likes to give out.

The party recently handed out bags of hashish to passers-by as part of its campaign to legalise cannabis, landing the 67-year-old Pannella an eight-month prison term.

Mr. Pannella's party includes one senator and two European deputies. Emma Bonino, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs, Fishing and Consumer Affairs, is also a party member.

Mr. Pannella, a former ally of Silvio Berlusconi during his tenure at the head of government from 1994 to 1995, attracted the public's attention in the 1970s when he fought in favour of abortion rights and divorce.

Kinkel urges states speaking German to rethink spelling reform

BONN (AFP) — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel called on German-speaking states Switzerland and Austria to renegotiate a reform simplifying German spelling that has run into a fierce traditionalist backlash in Germany.

"If three quarters of German citizens and a growing number of people abroad refuse the reform, we can not neglect their wishes. We must correct it," Mr. Kinkel said in a radio interview.

He said culture ministries in Germany's 16 states had been overly zealous and called on them to talk with their Austrian and Swiss counterparts, as well as federal German authorities.

State culture ministers decided on Aug. 25 to institute — a year ahead of schedule — the reform that mandates phonetic rather than traditional spellings. New textbooks have already been printed with these spellings.

The German state of Lower Saxony last month moved against the reform, blocking its going into effect in state schools.

The reform was adopted last year by the eight European nations that are German-speaking or have German minorities — Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, Liechtenstein, Romania and Hungary. It is to take effect gradually beginning next August, and fully by mid-2005.

Mr. Kinkel and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl have said the debate should be settled politically, in order to avoid lengthy court cases.

Lower Saxony, for instance, is only blocking the reform temporarily, either until an agreement is reached between the states and the federal government or until a definitive judicial decision. Barring such a case, the reform would go into effect as planned in 1998 in Lower Saxony.

Lower Saxony bowed Monday to an appeals court in Lueneburg which ruled that a measure filed against the reform was illegal without federal approval.



Roman Catholic priest Father Mario Frittitta, 58, a monk of the Carmelite religious order, is led between two Carabinieri police officers after being arrested on charges of aggravated aiding and abetting the mafia (Reuters photo)

Catholic priest arrested in Sicily Mafia roundup

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — Police said Tuesday they had arrested seven people on Mafia charges, including a Roman Catholic priest accused of saying masses for a top crime boss and presiding at a secret wedding of another crime figure.

Father Mario Frittitta, 58, a monk of the Carmelite religious order, was arrested on charges of aggravated aiding and abetting the Mafia.

Father Frittitta, wearing brown robes, held his arrest warrant with his handcuffed hands as he left a police station in central Palermo. He had been ordered to the police station for questioning when he was arrested.

He was accused of having said mass last Christmas and Easter for Pietro Aglieri while the top boss and his bodyguards were living in a secret hideout in Bagheria, Sicily.

Aglieri was arrested last

June. The boss, one of the top Mafia fugitives, was wanted for the car bomb killing of anti-Mafia judge Paolo Borsellino in Palermo in 1992.

When police first raised suspicions about Father Frittitta earlier this year, he admitted to having met Aglieri but said he had done so to give him spiritual help and to try to convince him to change his ways.

"We don't contest the fact that he met Aglieri, but of having violating the law of man by helping a criminal," magistrate Alfonso Sabella told reporters.

Aglieri headed a Mafia family known as the "Saint Mary of Jesus" clan, named after the Palermo neighbourhood it controlled.

"He helped Aglieri when he was a fugitive by telling us that he did not know where Aglieri was," Mr. Sabella said. "He had contacts with Aglieri for at least six months."

The priest worked in a parish in the tough Kalsa neighbourhood in the Sicilian capital.

Investigators said the priest also presided at a secret wedding at the Kalsa neighbourhood's church of St. Teresa for Giovanni Garafolo, another Mafioso who was then at large.

The wedding, which took place last Dec. 23, was held at dawn to avoid local attention.

Palermo police chief Antonio Manganello thanked Sicilian church authorities, saying: "This shows that the church is against the Mafia and every other criminal organisation."

He did not elaborate on how the church may have cooperated with authorities.

Magistrates said police had also confiscated about \$6 million in real estate and bank accounts in the operation that led to Father Frittitta's arrest.

Typhoon death toll hits 180 in Thailand and Vietnam

HANOI (AFP) — The death toll from Typhoon Linda's devastating surge through Vietnam and Thailand rose past 180 Tuesday, with more than 1,000 people still unaccounted for.

The storm cut a swathe of destruction through southern Vietnam and Thailand, capsizing fishing fleets and destroying homes and crops.

Typhoon Keith meanwhile left four dead in Japan, but appeared to be sparing the Philippines. And in the South Pacific, the Cook Islands authorities counted more bodies after Cyclone Martin smashed into an atoll there.

Figures from 11 southern Vietnamese provinces showed 178 people confirmed dead and another 994, most of them fishermen, missing. A further 271 people were reported injured.

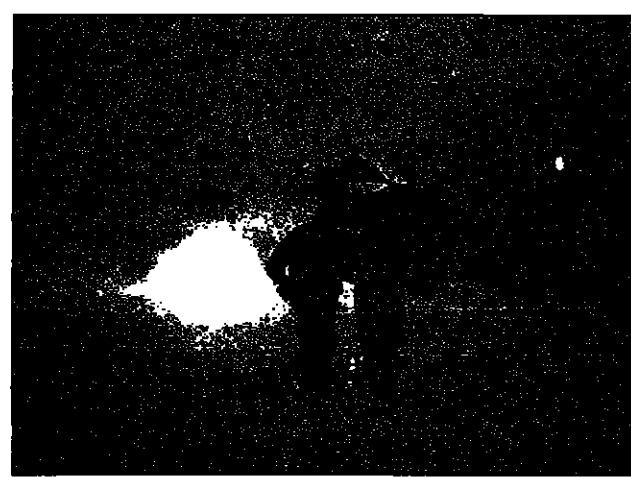
The army and navy were leading rescue operations after the typhoon swamped small boats and wrecked tens of thousands of homes Sunday. Most of the victims were fishermen.

Hundreds of thousands of homes are feared destroyed or damaged and losses could run into tens of millions of dollars.

The Vietnam News said 12,300 homes were destroyed in Ca Mau, Vietnam's southernmost province. Worst hit were provinces in the Mekong Delta while the islands of Con Dao and Phu Quoc were also heavily affected.

Linda is only the second typhoon this century to hit the Mekong Delta, where in 1904 a violent storm caused 5,000 deaths.

The International Federation of the Red Cross has rushed supplies and food to the zone, where rice crops have been destroyed over a wide area. In southern Thailand, provincial officials said three people were con-



A Thai couple wades through a flooded street in southern Phetchaburi province (Reuters photo)

firmed dead and 80 more fishermen were missing after the storm hit Monday evening. At least 200 families were cut off by floods in the Thana Chana and Chaiya districts of Surat Thani, local authorities said. Some 1,100 families in Chumphon province and 335 families in Prachuab Khiri Khan were evacuated.

Thai Airways cancelled all flights to Surat Thani and ferries to the holiday islands of Koh Samui and Koh Phangan were suspended.

Cambodian authorities said at least two people had died and many others were missing after Linda battered cargo and fishing vessels there.

Typhoon Keith killed four Japanese fishermen before heading off towards the island of Guam, police said.

A woman and her son were drowned after high waves capsized their boat off Japan's southwestern island of Shikoku, police spokesman said.

Two more people died in Wakayama prefecture, 400 kilometers west of Tokyo. But the Philippines, which has borne the brunt of numerous natural disasters over the years, breathed a tentative sigh of relief Tuesday as Keith appeared to be veering

away. In the Cook Islands two more bodies were found on Manihiki Island on Monday bringing the confirmed death toll from Cyclone Martin to five.

Officials said 18 people were still missing after the storm slammed into the island over the weekend, causing massive destruction.

The government said most of the 700 people on the atoll would be flown to the Cook Islands capital of Rarotonga, leaving only the able-bodied behind to rebuild.

The cyclone also flattened the French Polynesian island of Mopelia but no one was hurt there, government leader Gaston Flosse said.

"All the houses have been destroyed and the coconut plantations are ruined," he said.

Dramatic stories emerged of how Cook Islanders in Manihiki faced the cyclone's fury. A woman who survived 12 hours clinging to floating wreckage gradually was losing the will to hold on. "I called out 'I love you' to my husband with the last of my energy. I'd had enough," Tarita Puna Williams told AFP.

"My husband came looking for me in the dark and found me."

Social Democrats, Greens finalise alliance to run Hamburg

HAMBURG. Germany (AFP) — Social Democrats (SPD) and members of the radical Greens Party reached an agreement Monday on sealing an alliance to govern the city state of Hamburg, after the left emerged weakened from municipal elections in September.

The agreement ended six weeks of negotiations on forming a new administration for this northern city, where the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) of Chancellor Helmut Kohl failed to win but did well in elections on Sept. 21. Hamburg has traditionally been a fief of the SPD.

The CDU had proposed forming an alliance with the SPD but the Social Democrats, who will be fighting Mr. Kohl for the chancellorship in general elections in September, refused. The SPD has now formed anti-CDU alliances with the Greens in a total of five of Germany's 16 states.

In Hamburg, the Greens will run three ministries — science and higher education, environment, and city, parliamentary relations and European policy.

The SPD keeps the most important portfolios such as finance, justice, interior and social affairs, as well as culture, education and construction.

The agreement must still be signed by the two sides and then approved by the Greens Sunday and the SPD Monday.

Ottwin Runde, 53, is to be elected SPD mayor on Nov. 12. The deputy mayor is to be from the Greens Party.

Mr. Runde called the agreement "a solid result for the next four years" and said that all points of conflict had been resolved.

The Greens yielded on one main point of disagreement with the SPD, namely what to do about political refugees. Refugees who are under age, and there are many of them in Hamburg, will be sent to different German states, something the Greens had previously opposed.

But Greens leader in the Hamburg state parliament Krista Sager said the ecologists had "managed to make their points in all areas."

Russian generals investigated for corruption

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian military prosecutors are investigating 21 generals accused of corruption, illegal weapons sales and beating fellow officers, Chief Military Prosecutor Yuri Dyomin said Tuesday.

High profile cases include former Deputy Defence Minister Konstantin Kobets, accused of abuse of power. His case is expected to come to trial before the year's end, Mr. Dyomin said.

Also targeted by the probe is the former head of Russian forces in the northern Caucasus, accused of beating his officers, and the former commander of the Transcaucasian army group, suspected of illegal arms sales. "There can be no talks of double standards," said Mr. Dyomin. "Laws must be observed by all — privates and generals," he added.

New Zealand government hangs in the balance after Bolger quits



New Zealand National Party leader-designate Jenny Shipley (centre) walks with reporters to a party caucus meeting in Wellington (Reuters photo)

WELLINGTON (AFP) — Jenny Shipley Tuesday became New Zealand's prime minister designate but was immediately confronted by a crisis within the ruling coalition.

The National Party made the 45-year-old tough talking transport minister its new leader after Prime Minister Jim Bolger announced he would be standing down rather than face a leadership challenge.

Ms. Shipley emerged from the caucus triumphant but only to discover that New Zealand First (NZF) and its leader, Winston Peters, was furious at the change.

National has 44 seats in the 120-seat assembly and is in coalition with the 17-seat NZF. Shipley can only become New Zealand's

first female prime minister with the help of Mr. Peters, treasurer in the government, who has never hidden his dislike of her.

National and NZF met in separate caucuses and Mr. Peters said his group had still not decided what to do and would meet again Friday, then again next Tuesday before making any decision.

His response leaves the country once again waiting on the whim of Mr. Peters just 12 months after the country sat without a government while the party chose its coalition partner after the elections.

Ms. Shipley said her party had given her full authority to negotiate "any necessary coalition arrangements" with NZF. She said she was com-

mitted to a continuation of the partnership.

"I will clearly want to talk to, and work with, the New Zealand First team and I want to make clear this morning that from my point of view the coalition agreement is an enduring document and the goals that we set in December last year are the goals that I intend to see are fulfilled," Ms. Shipley said.

It's very important that New Zealand has certainty at this time," Peters said NZF had entered the coalition in the interests of New Zealand's economic and social stability.

Having delivered on that in the past year "we still want to keep that as our focus."

But he added the timing of the change in leadership

and the way it happened "was unfortunate."

In a parliamentary debate on the change, opposition leader Helen Clark said the government's unpopularity would continue under Ms. Shipley because National's leadership was not the main concern of voters.

It was the coalition deal that the public did not want, she said.

Although the coalition now looks shaky an early election would appear unlikely.

Public opinion polls indicate that NZF would, in any election held now, be wiped out and the current opposition Labour Party would win enough votes to govern alone.

If Ms. Shipley survives, she will later this month become New Zealand's

first female head of government.

Currently number five in the cabinet, Ms. Shipley, 45, entered politics in 1987, a friend of up and coming politician Ruth Richardson who in 1990 became finance minister in the newly-elected Bolger administration.

Ms. Richardson delivered a rugged budget in 1990 which slashed government spending and Ms. Shipley, as social welfare minister took the knife to welfare benefits.

She is however a self-confident and tough person. Her physical stature, big and broad developed over years of swimming, gives her a powerful aura. Even her critics say she is very bright and has a strong grip on her portfolio.

U.K. test tube births increase 25% in year

LONDON (R) — Test tube births in Britain rose by more than 25 per cent in the last year, reflecting a growing number of patients and an increased success rate, a government body said Tuesday.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), which regulates in vitro fertilisation (IVF) and licenses the country's 117 fertility clinics, said more than 20,000 test tube babies had been born in Britain since the technique was developed in 1978.

"In vitro fertilisation originated in the U.K., and

we remain one of the few countries in the world which regulates such treatment via a statutory governmental body," Ruth Deech, chairman of the authority, said in its annual report.

The number of couples seeking treatment rose from just a few thousands in 1985, when figures were first recorded, to more than 22,000 in 1995. New techniques have also improved success rates and multiple births.

In the last 15 months the multiple birth rate resulting from IVF increased to 32

per cent, the biggest yet for the treatment in Britain.

The HFEA also licenses and monitors all human embryo research.

Obstetrician Patrick Seftoe and biologist Robert Edwards pioneered the IVF technique. They were the first to succeed in implanting an egg fertilised outside the body back in the womb.

Since Louise Brown, the first test tube baby, was born in 1978, IVF and other fertility treatments have offered hope to millions of childless couples around the world.

Sikh women attack New Delhi's helmet-must rule

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Sikh women Tuesday moved to oppose a police order which made protective helmets compulsory for motorcycle and scooter riders in the Indian capital.

In a petition to the Delhi High Court, the women claimed the helmet-must rule enforced last week had fuelled resentment among the Sikh community.

"Sikh ladies cannot wear a helmet as wearing a 'topi' (cap) is considered to be against the basic tenets of our religion," the petition said. Sikh men wear turbans which they say are a symbol of their religion and cannot be replaced with any other headgear. They are exempted from wearing helmets.

Police last Saturday began prosecuting motorcyclists who broke the rule imposed by the high court on Sept. 10.

Pillion-riders were included in the court order, sparking a wave of protests.

Meanwhile, Muslims argued that helmets appeared ungainly on women of their community who wear burkas covering them from head to toe, while pregnant women claimed heavy headgear could cause them physical harm.

Ujjwal Mishra, chief of the city's traffic police, earlier argued before the court that the rule cannot be enforced as helmets of various sizes were not available in the market.

However, the traffic police Saturday raked in 300,000 rupees (\$8,330) in fines from traffic violators and warned the penalty would be stiffer in the future.

M.S. Butalia, a lawyer who filed the petition against the rule, said she had appealed in the court of the same judges who imposed the helmet-must guidelines almost two months ago.

Managers of Delhi's Sikh Temples also urged the local government Tuesday to amend existing laws and exempt women and children of their community from the latest traffic rules.

"Helmet cannot be worn by Sikh women and children as it is against their religious ethics," Kuldip Singh Bhogal, a spokesman of the Sikh Temples, told reporters.

A large number of two-wheeler riders are frequently prosecuted here for driving without protective headgear.

Most fatal accidents on the city's chaotic roads are on account of two-wheelers.

Papon says he battled for Jews

BORDEAUX, France (AFP) — Alleged war criminal Maurice Papon said Tuesday he decided to stay in his wartime post under the Vichy regime in order to be in a position to battle for the rights of Jews.

The 87-year-old former minister, charged over deporting Jews to Nazi death camps during World War II, said he was "disgusted" by the anti-Jewish laws passed by the Vichy regime but did not quit because of a feeling of duty.

He chose to stay in charge of "Jewish affairs" in the government offices in Bordeaux to "stay on the battlefield, to fight for those who called for pity and commiseration," he told the court trying him for crimes against humanity.

"That is the explanation. Is it psychological, is it moral, I do not know. It is simply humane," he said.

Mr. Papon has been on trial since Oct. 8 charged over his role in deporting more than 1,500 Jews to Nazi death camps from Bordeaux, where he was

secretary-general of the prefecture, or regional government office.

Prosecutor Marc Robert challenged Mr. Papon's latest affirmation. "I do not see how an administrative secretary general can be on a battlefield," he told the court.

Mr. Papon meanwhile explained how he had helped transport letters for a Jewish government official, Maurice Levy, from Nazi-occupied France to the free zone in the south.

He said this did not formally make him part of the wartime resistance, but was done out of an act of humanity. "I helped Maurice Levy because, with his name, if he had been caught, he would have been arrested," he told the court.

"And I did not worry myself at the time to ask for a 'carte de resistant'... to be able to present it to an assize court one day."

Lawyers for civil parties in the case meanwhile said the prosecutor had put Mr. Papon "on the ropes" during cross-questioning.

"There was a series of

short exchanges which put Maurice Papon on the ropes. It was good work," said lawyer Gerard Boulanger.

Alain Jakubowicz said "the scaffolding of Mr. Papon's defence is beginning to collapse."

Monday, as his trial entered its fifth week, Mr. Papon said he was pained and shocked by anti-Jewish laws passed by the Vichy wartime regime.

"Quite obviously the Vichy legislation could only cause me shock and pain, not only as an intellectual and political response, but as an emotional one," he said.

The court case against Mr. Papon resumed last Friday following a week-long gap after the ex-minister fell ill on Oct. 24. He was diagnosed as suffering from severe bronchial infections of both lungs.

French President Jacques Chirac Sunday urged France to face both its shady and glorious past as the Papon trial for crimes against humanity during World War II entered its fifth week.

Afghan Taleban start giving forced hair-cuts

KABUL (R) — The Taleban have started forcibly cutting hair in Kabul in their drive to turn Afghanistan into the world's purest Islamic state.

"We are cutting hair that hangs over the forehead because when you pray it gets in the way of your forehead touching the ground the devil stands between you and God," Maulawi Abdul Rashid Darkasti of the Taleban's religious police told reporters.

Mr. Darkasti, armed with a pair of scissors, stood at a roundabout Tuesday amid piles of severed forelocks.

He stopped buses and cyclists, removing people's hats to check if anyone was hiding offensive amounts of hair.

"We have cut the hair of 56 people already today," Mr. Darkasti said, his voice ringing with enthusiasm. He is the head of the reli-



A bus passenger is dragged out and given a forcible haircut by a zealous member of Taleban militia (AFP photo)

gious police — formally known as the department for promoting virtue and preventing vice — in southwestern Kabul.

Hirsuteness is a major issue in the Taleban's crusade to impose their strict interpretation of Islamic law.

Civil servants have lost their jobs after being judged guilty of trimming their beards.

An official decree bans "English and American haircuts", although the definition of what constitutes an English or American haircut remains fuzzy.

Faulty hatch causes Mir crew fresh headache

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Russian space station Mir suffered a fresh setback when cosmonauts failed to fully seal a hatch after a five-hour space walk to carry out repairs to the ageing space vessel, mission control said Tuesday.

The faulty hatch meant Mir commander Anatoly Solovoyev and engineer Pavel Vinogradov were unable to hermetically seal an entrance to the Kvant II science module following their return from a space walk to dismantle an obsolete solar panel on the module.

"This is an unexpected situation. It will not affect the other work, and there is no danger," mission control spokeswoman Vera Medvedkova quoted Solovoyev as saying.

The cosmonauts reentered the Kvant module still wearing their spacesuits and began pumping air back into the module to restore pressure to normal. However, when the mercury column measuring air pressure had reached 550mm "the instruments showed the section was not hermetically sealed," Ms.

Medvedkova told AFP.

"Mission control advised the cosmonauts to enter the second of Kvant II's three sections, and close the hatch there, which they then did. They decided to leave everything as it is until Nov. 6, when they will go on another spacewalk and try to fully seal the hatch manually," she said.

The module's hatch is normally closed manually, but there are additional locks which the cosmonauts did not close Monday because when they noticed the abnormality in pressure their spacesuits' life-support systems were almost exhausted, Ms. Medvedkova said.

The abnormality did not show up at low pressure, she added. Kvant II is linked to Mir's other modules via a transfer node, and it can be entirely sealed off from the rest of the station if necessary.

The spacewalk had been delayed by two hours after a problem with Solovoyev's spacesuit was detected, only moments before the two men were due to venture into space.

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Democracy at new turn

EXCEPT FOR a few surprises, the results of yesterday's general elections have been largely predictable. Most of those who have been re-elected or those who have won a seat for the first time had stood more or less an equal chance to win, depending on the strength of their tribal affiliations, religious base or ethnic belonging.

This makes the new Parliament more predictable as a whole and easier to manage than if political parties and groups had cut for themselves different slices of its make-up. Likewise it is safe to assume that this, or another government with essentially the same political and economic outlook, will find in the new House of Representatives a willing partner in continuing the programme of social, administrative and economic reforms. Leaving matters of foreign affairs to His Majesty King Hussein to wisely steer, a government of experts and technocrats could do the job, unless of course the Crown elects to appoint a Cabinet which can compensate for the absence of the opposition as represented mainly by the Muslim Brotherhood and other respected political personalities and groups.

There have been reports that the leadership favours the latter option, if only to provide the 13th Parliament with the support that it needs in order to be more viable and productive. Representativeness, on the other hand, can be strengthened not only by drawing ministers from all shades of the political spectrum but also by selecting more members in the Senate from opposition groups and figures.

People may well argue that the newly-elected Lower House is as representative as it could be, since it was the free choice of those who boycotted the elections to do so. But, having made the point that no political group — whether on the right or left — can win by staying away from or operating outside the democratic game, and having ensured that yesterday's elections were conducted freely and fairly (despite the problems and the shortcomings the bureaucracy faced in compiling and dispensing of voter lists and cards) the leadership may see fit to push again for its long-standing policy of inclusion, especially since the country encounters some serious challenges.

These challenges, which range from fighting poverty and high unemployment and falling standards of living and stifling bureaucracy to coming up with a modern election law to restoring consensus on national security issues, need the cooperation of all in order to be tackled and met.

It is our, and so many people's, hope that the election of the new House is the first in a series of steps that aim at strengthening national unity, social justice, equality and democracy and putting us on the right course for the next decade and beyond.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AI Ra'i's Fakhri Kawar criticised remarks made by Dr. Mazen Amoudi, the official spokesperson for the elections, for telling reporters that all political shades and groups including the Islamists will be represented in the 13th Parliament. The spokesperson's remarks do not reflect the facts on the ground because certain political parties, including the Islamic Action Front (IAF), have declared a boycott of the elections, said the writer. There is a big difference between a candidate claiming that he is Islamist raising religious slogans and a member of the IAF party representing his party in the elections, Kawar said. In the first case the candidate, though he might be a Muslim, is not authorised by the party to represent the group in the elections and so the IAF party will not be represented in the coming parliament as the spokesperson claimed, the writer added. He said it is true that certain Islamists who were nominated by the IAF to run in the previous elections are contesting again, but he said these are no longer IAF members and are merely representing themselves in the elections.

AI Dustour's Nawaf Zaru decried the Arab countries' indifference to what is happening in Iraq and the threats directed at its people from the U.S. Zaru said the sanctions that have been in place for the past seven years and the aggression on the Iraqis are not meant to force Iraq to comply with U.N. resolutions because Baghdad has already done so. Kuwait is no longer occupied by Iraqi forces, and the U.N. weapons inspection teams have flushed out all the weapons in Iraq's arsenals, the writer added. In fact it is Iraq's territory which is being exposed to aggression by Iran and Turkey and also by the U.S. and its allies he said. The writer said that the continued sanctions are clearly designed as a means to impose the American hegemony on the Arabs and to subjugate the Arabs to further humiliation. He said it is most painful to see the Arabs failing to come to the aid of their brothers and sisters not only in Iraq but also in Palestine, Libya and Sudan which have all been exposed to some kind of sanctions by the U.S. and its allies with or without backing from the United Nations.

Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

Arab Americans to present positions at White House Conference on Hate Crimes

DESPITE SIGNIFICANT progress in race and ethnic relations in the U.S., problems still remain. In the past few years the U.S. has witnessed the burning of black churches and some mosques, vandalism against some Jewish synagogues, and attacks against individuals based on their race, or national origin.

As reports by some Arab American organisations show, Arab Americans, too, have been victims of hate crimes. But the situation of the community has dramatically improved, as has our ability to defend ourselves and advance our concerns in all areas.

Next week when President Clinton convenes the "White House Conference on Hate Crimes," Arab Americans will be well represented. Eight Arab Americans will be among the more than 200 delegates invited by the White House to participate in the day-long event.

The issues of racially, ethnically, or religiously motivated violence have long troubled this president. He often speaks of how this problem has torn apart several other countries and how disturbed he is to see the persistence of such hatred in the U.S.

The purpose of the White House conference, in the president's words, is to "develop a deeper understanding of the problem" of hate crimes so that the nation can "mount an all-out assault" on the problem and "find ways to prevent hate crimes from occurring in the first place."

Again, in the president's words, the conference will bring to the White House "victims of hate crimes and their families to help us understand why the impact of these acts runs so much deeper than the crimes themselves." The conference will also bring together law enforcement officials and congressional leaders "to take a serious look at the existing laws against hate crimes and consider ways to improve enforcement of these laws." And finally the White House event will bring community and religious leaders together to discuss "solutions that are already making a real difference" in communities across the U.S.

Appearing at the centrepiece session of the conference will be victims of hate crimes speaking in a panel discussion led by President Clinton. One of the seven panelists chosen to

participate in the panel will be Sami Odeh, the brother of Alex Odeh, the Arab American leader murdered in a 1985 terrorist bombing attack at his office in California.

As president of the Arab American Institute (AAI), I have been asked to lead one of the other panel discussions that will be held during the conference. Other Arab Americans invited to attend the day-long session include: Abdul Rahman Amoudi of the American Muslim Council (AMC); Ellie Abboud, president of the National Arab American Business Association; and Dr. Hala Maksoud, president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC).

All of this points to the increased role Arab Americans are now playing, not only in defence of our community's rights, but also as respected participants in shaping the U.S. policy debate about how to protect the rights of all Americans.

Even with this progress, it is important to note that those hostile to Arab American advancement continue their efforts to harm the community and its leadership. As reports issued by Arab American organisations show, there are still instances where bigots have attacked Arab and Muslim Americans. And there is still defamation and negative stereotyping in the media which, while not hate-crimes in themselves, help create the climate in which those crimes are committed.

Equally disturbing are recent attacks on Arab American leaders clearly carried out in an effort to stem the community's political progress. For the most part, these efforts are the work of right-wing ideologues and hardliners in the Jewish community. In a few recent incidents, however, the perpetrators of these defamatory campaigns have also included some divisive elements within the Arab American community itself — a handful of so-called "Lebanese patriots" using an anti-Arab agenda to advance their "cause." It was those elements who recently allied themselves with the right-wing in an effort to derail the nomination of an Arab American as ambassador to Morocco. And it is this same small group that has supported a nasty campaign of defamation against myself and Mr. Amoudi of the American Muslim Council.

Our concern with these efforts is not that they will succeed. The nomination of Ed Gabriel as ambassador to Morocco has moved forward and a senior official at the White House called me last week to express their support to us over the attacks we have had to endure.

The real concern is that when campaigns of defamation take hold, if only among a fringe of society, then the danger exists that hate crimes may occur.

From 1979 to 1985 there was a six-year period where our Arab American organisations were routinely defamed. We were called extremists and supporters of the "terrorists" (meaning the PLO).

As a result of those verbal attacks many of us faced death threats and actual violent attacks. My office, the Palestine Human Rights Campaign, was bombed in 1980. Several of us received repeated death threats and in 1985 Alex Odeh was murdered.

In December 1985, I wrote to and testified before the U.S. Civil Rights Commission linking the sustained campaigns of defamation against Arab American leaders and organisations and the violence and threats of violence to which we were subjected.

I wrote, "These acts of violence and threats of violence against Arab American organisations are but part of a larger picture of discrimination, harassment, and intimidation. We can document numerous instances of active political discrimination against Arab Americans, 'blacklisting' of Arab American political activists and spokespersons, and efforts to 'bait' or 'taint' Arab American leaders and organisations as 'terrorist' or 'terrorist supporters'."

"All of these actions and practices create a climate... (which) serves to embolden the political opponents of Arab Americans to the point where, as we have seen, some have escalated their opposition to include acts of violence against Arab Americans and their organisations."

This is the same message I will take to the White House Conference on Hate Crimes next week, confident that our message will be heard, that we will be supported and defended, and that our advancement will not stop.

Democracies that take liberties

By Fareed Zakaria

THE AMERICAN diplomat Richard Holbrooke pondered a problem on the eve of the September 1996 elections in Bosnia, which were meant to restore civic life to the region. "Suppose the election was declared free and fair," he said, and those elected are "racists, fascists, separatists, who are publicly opposed to [peace and reintegration]. That is the dilemma."

Indeed it is, not just in the former Yugoslavia, but increasingly around the world. Democratically elected regimes, often ones that have been reelected or reaffirmed through referendums, are routinely ignoring constitutional limits on their power and depriving their citizens of basic rights and freedoms. From Peru to the Palestinian Authority, from Slovakia to Sri Lanka, from Pakistan to the Philippines, we see the rise of a disturbing phenomenon in international life — illiberal democracy.

It has been difficult to recognise this problem because for almost a century in the West, democracy has meant liberal democracy — a political system marked not by free and fair elections, but also by the rule of law, a separation of powers, and the protection of basic liberties of speech, assembly, religion and property. In fact, this latter bundle of freedoms — what might be termed constitutional liberalism — is theoretically different and historically distinct from democracy. Today the two strands of liberal democracy, interwoven in the Western political fabric, are coming apart in the rest of the world. Democracy is flourishing; constitutional liberalism is not.

Westerners are growing uneasy at the rapid spread of multiparty elections across south-central Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America, perhaps because of what happens after the elections. Popular leaders like Russia's Boris Yeltsin and Peru's Alberto Fujimori bypass their parliaments and rule by presidential decree, eroding basic constitutional practices. Ethiopia's elected government turns its security forces on journalists and political opponents, doing permanent damage to human rights (as well as human beings).

Naturally there is a spectrum of illiberal democracy, from modest offenders like Argentina to near tyrannies like Kazakhstan and Belarus, with countries like Romania and Bangladesh in between. Along much of the spectrum, elections are rarely as fair as in the West today, but they do reflect the reality of popular partic-

ipation in politics and support for those elected.

Freedom House's 1996-97 survey, "Freedom in the World," has separate rankings for political liberties and civil liberties, which correspond roughly with democracy and constitutional liberalism, respectively. Of the countries that lie between confirmed dictatorship and consolidated democracy, 50 per cent do better on political liberties than on civil ones. In other words, half of the "democratising" countries in the world today are illiberal democracies.

Constitutional liberalism has led to democracy, but democracy does not seem to bring constitutional liberalism.

Until the 20th century, most countries, in Western Europe were not democracies. The franchise was tightly restricted, and elected legislatures had little power. In 1830 Great Britain, in some ways the most democratic European nation, allowed barely 2 per cent of its population to vote for one house of Parliament; that figure rose to 7 per cent after 1867 and reached around 40 per cent in the 1880s. Only in the late 1940s did most Western countries become full-fledged democracies, with universal adult suffrage.

But 100 years earlier, by the late 1840s, most of them had adopted important aspects of constitutional liberalism — the rule of law, property rights and, increasingly, separated powers and free speech and assembly. For much of modern history, the "Western model" was best symbolised by the mass plebiscite but the impartial judge.

Constitutional liberalism has led to democracy, but democracy does not seem to bring constitutional lib-

eralism. In contrast to the Western path, during the last two decades in Latin America, Africa and parts of Asia, dictatorships have given way to democracy with no intervening liberalisation. The results are not encouraging. In the Western Hemisphere, with elections having been held in every country except Cuba, a 1993 study by the scholar Larry Diamond determined that 10 of the 22 principal Latin countries "have levels of human rights abuse that are incompatible with the consolidation of [liberal] democracy." In Argentina, President Carlos Saul

and some of the Arab Gulf states, were elections to be held tomorrow, the resulting regimes would almost certainly be more illiberal than the ones now in place.

A proper appreciation of constitutional liberalism has a variety of implications for American foreign policy. First, it suggests a certain humility. While it is easy to impose elections on a country, it is more difficult to push constitutional liberalism on a society. The process of genuine liberalisation and democratisation is gradual and long-term: it is a process in which an election is only one step.

Hence, the absence of free and fair elections should be viewed as one flaw, not the definition of tyranny. Elections are an important virtue of governance, but they are not the only virtue. Economic, civil and religious liberties are at the core of human autonomy and dignity. If a government with limited democracy steadily expands these freedoms, it should not be branded a dictatorship.

Despite the limited political choice they offer, countries like Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand provide a better environment for the life, liberty and happiness of their citizens than do illiberal democracies like Slovakia and Ghana. And the pressures of global capitalism can push the process of liberalisation forward. Markets and morals can work together. Even China, has given its citizens more autonomy and economic liberty than they have had in generations.

Today, in the face of a spreading virus of illiberalism, the most useful role that the international community and the United States can play is — instead of searching for new lands to democratise — to consolidate democracy where it has taken root and to encourage the gradual development of constitutional liberalism across the globe.

Democracy without constitutional liberalism is not simply inadequate, but dangerous, bringing with it the erosion of liberty, the abuse of power, ethnic divisions and even war. Eighty years ago, Woodrow Wilson took the United States into the 20th century with a challenge, to make the world safe for democracy. As we approach the next century, our task is to make democracy safe for the world.

The writer is managing editor of Foreign Affairs. This article is reprinted from the New York Times.

IT
OCCURRED
TO ME...Shopper's
guide to
history

By Ali Kassay

IBN BATOUTA, the great Arab traveller, sat down and crossed his legs on the soft velvet cushions, tucking his feet under his haunches as required by politeness, and he began the narrative of his travels in foreign parts. "We have journeyed beyond where the sun rises and sets. We went to strange lands some of them not yet known to man. We underwent great ordeals on land and sea — strong winds that lifted our boats as if they were feathers, blood-thirsty highwaymen whose hearts are made of stone, ferocious savages who have not heard of human mercy, and wild beasts that can rip a man apart with one sweep of their clawed paws. And wherever we were able to go by the grace of the Almighty God and the munificence of the noble Caliph, we did some shopping."

OK, so Ibn Batouta probably did not quite put it like that. But really, have you ever thought how much of human history has been shaped by the urge to shop? I first started thinking about it a few years ago after a lecture on the collapse of the Soviet Union, given in Paris by a visiting American political scientist. To drive his point home he exclaimed: "Let us have no illusions about it. What happened in the Soviet Union was not about democracy. It was about shopping." Well, if one were to compare the progress achieved virtually all over the world in these two fields, it would be hard to say that he was wrong.

Nor is this a new phenomenon. Virtually from the first hour of history, there has been no limit, hem, or boundary to man's eagerness to find a new gadget that he could buy or sell. There was no extreme to which he would not go in order to satisfy this thirst to trade. Our noble ancestors, the Nabataeans were among the first to realise this and put it to good use. Seeing a lot of people come and go with camel saddles (the forerunners of today's plastic shopping bags) laden with curios, they suggested charging these travellers a small amount of money in return for protection, principally from themselves. The traders, always preferring to deal than to fight, were only too happy to pay this commission. And the Nabataeans built a major empire and civilisation on this revenue.

More recently, shopping was the principal shield that preserved Western Europe against the Communist threat. During the great depression, socialist and communist groups mushroomed in that continent. But man learned his lesson. After the Second World War, people had money in their pockets, and the poor communists did not stand a chance. Every time they cornered somebody and started warming up to the theme of the virtuous red dawn, he said: "Yes, yes, most interesting, you know, but some other time perhaps. You see, there is a sale going on across the street."

Then what happens when the all seducing Goddess of shopping withholds her munificence and man spends his days evading creditors rather than chasing deals? I suppose he starts to take an interest in politics and on occasions he follows attentively the results of elections.

World trade unions shrink

GENEVA (AFP) — Sweeping changes in the global economy have led to a dramatic drop in trade union membership over the last decade, producing a vastly different labour landscape, a report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) issued Tuesday said.

Globalisation, favouring capital mobility, new production methods and flight to low wage countries, risks dividing the workforce and widening social inequalities, the World Labour Report 1997-1998 warns.

Union membership over the 10 years to 1995 fell in all but 20 of the 92 countries surveyed by the ILO for its report.

In 1995, membership stood at 164 million workers (not including China) compared to a global estimated workforce of 1.3 billion people.

Less than one fifth of workers in 48 countries were union members, and only in 14 countries did the rate of union membership exceed 50 per cent.

Central and eastern Europe saw the sharpest plunge, with an average decline of 37 per cent. However, the main reason was the ending of quasi-obligatory union membership following the breakup of the former Soviet Bloc at the start of the decade, the ILO said.

South Africa was one of the few to register a huge rise in union membership, with most of the jump following the demise of apartheid in the early 1990s.

Bangladesh, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand and Hong Kong also saw membership rises in absolute numbers.

The slashing of jobs in rich countries' manufacturing industries, which has caused unemployment to swell in Europe, and the pressures of globalisation were the main culprits in shrinking unionisation, according to the ILO.

Droves of industrialised countries had shifted production to poor countries with low labour costs, leading to the disappearance at home of low-skilled, labour-intensive jobs which have been traditional bastions of unionisation.

Also, "white collar" workers in the rich world's growing service sector were less attracted to unions while new groups, including women, the young, and the highly skilled have proved more difficult to organise, the report said.

Some countries had squelched unions in the hope of attracting foreign investment, said the report.

Social policies have also had a negative impact on unions.

The health insurance reform in Israel, for example, prohibited the trade-union confederation from offering health care, which led to an immediate sharp drop in union membership.

The weakening of protective trade union legislation in Britain and New Zealand has had a "similar" impact.

Restrictions and anti-union activities remain pervasive in many countries.

The globalisation of the financial system has shifted power to the international financial markets, a change that has inevitably affected worker and union strategies, the report said.

"The big question for the unions confronted with globalisation of the economy is how to mobilise on an international level the capacity to act that they've lost on the national level," ILO Director General Michel Hansenne told journalists.

He cited as examples cross-border campaigns started against firms that use child labour and employ slave-wage "sweat shop" workers.

"The struggle has to move from the arena of production to consumption," Mr. Hansenne said. "Today, if organisations want to hit where it hurts, (they must aim at) the markets, the brand names."

Mr. Hansenne is not cowed by the numbers, insisting they "tell only part of the story" and that union influence in many cases is still strong.

In France, for example, union power is still potent though paradoxically just nine per cent of French workers are union members.

Power is wielded by a "militant" core which has been successful in mobilising public sector workers to its cause. Public sector strikes across France in 1995, which were backed by a large worker constituency, had a crippling effect on the economy.

The French lorry drivers' strike on Monday, with truckers setting up blockades across the country, was another instance of militant unionism at play.

In contrast, in Sweden, where unionisation runs at over 90 per cent of the workforce, strikes and disputes are rare.

"In Sweden, 10 per cent (of workers) are activists, the others are just paying their membership fees," said Jean-Michel Servais, head of the ILO's professional relations working group.

"In France (workers) don't pay their fees, but when there is a problem, they go for action," he added.

Asian crisis will cut global growth — HSBC James Capel

LONDON (AFP) — The Asian financial crisis, which last week showed signs of spreading to Latin America, will cool global economic growth next year to 3.9 per cent, from 4.5 per cent forecast before the turbulence began, a study forecast Tuesday.

HSBC James Capel, the British-based brokerage owned by HSBC Holdings, said that a slowing of growth in Asia and Brazil would reduce growth in the world's largest economy, the United States, by as much as 0.7 per cent in 1998.

The bank forecast that the U.S. economy, which in the third quarter of 1997 powered forward at an annual rate of 3.5 per cent, will grow by just 2.0 to 2.25 per cent next year.

The United States was more exposed than Europe, because a far bigger slice of U.S. exports than of European exports is destined for Asian markets, and the dollar has jumped against emerging market currencies, making U.S. goods more expensive.

Western economies would face more pain from a reduction of exports than any fall in consumer spending caused by the recent turmoil on global stock markets, HSBC James Capel said.

In Asia, which attracts 31 per cent of U.S. exports, stock markets have taken a battering and local currencies have plunged in value since the financial crisis began in Thailand in June.

Authorities in the region have been forced to push up interest rates sharply to protect their local currencies, which will slow economic growth.

Japan, which relies on South East Asia as a major export market, will also be hit indirectly by the problems in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Hong Kong.

In Asia, excluding Japan and China, HSBC James Capel now expects regional economies to expand by just four per cent, rather than the surging 6.75 per cent growth forecast before the start of the financial upheavals.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES

(March 21 to April 19) Your sweetheart may have some very good advice. You'd be wise to listen not only today, but for the next few weeks. Even though you're a strong leader, this person is going to try to boss you around. He or she is probably right. Don't put up too big a fight.

TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20) If there's something you've been dreaming about doing but haven't quite had the courage to try, dust it off and see if it still fits. This could inspire you to make some romantic plans for this weekend. That's a marvellous idea, by the way. Conditions will be excellent.

GEMINI

(May 21 to June 21) You and your sweetheart will be discussing jointly held finances for the next few weeks. Instead of arguing, come up with a scheme that will provide more security. If you're going to have to talk about money, talk about having more later, rather than spending it all now.

MOON CHILDREN

(June 22 to July 21) Something that's been difficult to understand or accomplish in a partnership situation will become easier for the next couple weeks. It will be easier for you and your mate to talk. Legal matters are more likely to go your way. Ask an expert for assistance.

LEO

(July 22 to August 21) You won't be able to do things exactly the way you want. There will be some barriers in the morning, and another hassle around the middle of the day. Things are going to turn out OK, but it's not an easy day for you. Be patient and persistent. That's how you will succeed.

VIRGO

(August 22 to September 21) It looks like you're doing really well in romance. If you don't have a relationship going right now, not to worry. You've had a bit of a strain lately, but you're starting to relax. You're looking good and attracting a lot of positive attention.

LIBRA

(September 22 to October 21) An obligation to finish something you promised around the house is weighing on you. The other person is tired of waiting. This will be to your own benefit as well. The more nice things you do for the people at home, the more they'll do for you.

SCORPIO

(October 22 to November 21) For the next several weeks, you'll be learning about love. How wonderful for you, and for your sweetheart. It looks like the two of you will have plenty of fun doing the homework in this class. You'll also learn from the one you love. Listen carefully tonight.

SAGITTARIUS

(November 22 to December 21) You've got more money coming in, and that's good. There's quite a lot going out, too, and that's painful. Don't spend it all on toys. The temptation will be terrible. Make sure you have your obligations handled first.

CAPRICORN

(December 22 to January 20) You're going to be luckier in love for the next several weeks. That's only the beginning. You're also getting stronger and more compassionate. You can give good advice without seeming harsh about it. That will be much appreciated.

AQUARIUS

(January 21 to February 19) Relationships go through phases. Sometimes you feel like being with a lot of other people. Sometimes you feel like snuggling. Sometimes you feel like talking about problems. Sometimes you feel like planning for the future. Today, finish a project you've been working on.

PISCES

(February 20 to March 20) Your relationships with your friends are better than they've even been. You're a very popular person because you're such a sweetheart. You really are nice, right down to the core of your being. A lot of people care very much about you. Accept their compliments graciously.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

EBRD urges more reform amid upturn in eastern Europe

LONDON (AFP) — Eastern Europe is expected to see economic growth for the first time for years this year and to continue its ascent in 1998, according to an EBRD report which also urges these countries to embark on further reforms.

As a result of economic recovery in Russia, which is expected to show growth of one per cent after years of decline, the overall improvement in gross domestic product (GDP) for the countries of central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union is expected to be 1.7 per cent in 1997.

In 1996, Russian GDP fell back by five per cent. In its annual report published in London, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) predicts the whole region will record 3.5 per cent growth in 1998.

However, the EBRD, created in 1991 to assist the economic transformation of former communist countries, argues that to consolidate the progress, these

countries must now undertake a new set of reforms.

By giving loans and by holding shares in companies, the bank seeks to underpin the transition to a market economy in 26 countries in the former Soviet Union and its former satellite regimes, in the former Yugoslavia and Albania.

"It is possible that in 20 years' time, some of the world's 'tiger' economies will be found in this region. However, the growth progress should not be seen as mechanical or automatic," the EBRD warned.

The organisation's chief economist Nick Stern said further: "The challenge of the new phase of transition will be to create a well-functioning and stable market economy. Effective market-oriented governance will be crucial."

As the EBRD sees it, these countries must equip themselves with effective financial institutions and they must counter deep-rooted problems.

The body's report stresses

the need to break with "the legacy of bureaucratic interference and corruption that undermines investment and development."

Even in the most developed countries in the zone, financial institutions must be strengthened in order to participate in economic development.

Of Russia, which has by far the strongest economy in the region, the report noted: "Following slow reforms in 1996 and early 1997, structural reforms have accelerated since the appointment of the new government and the initiation of a comprehensive reform programme in March 1997."

Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia and Romania, meanwhile, saw impressive progress in 1997.

By contrast, Belarus, Slovakia and Uzbekistan took a step backwards and Ukraine ground to a halt.

In the short-term, the flipside of economic growth is increased imports and, in many cases, foreign trade deficits have deepened.



It's not just a Movie Theatre.
It's a revolution in entertainment.

TONIGHT

GALLERIA 1 **GALLERIA 2**

10:45 - 8:30 **GALLERIA 1** **CON - AIR** **وېسٽر عرض فلم**

12:30 - 3:15 - 5:00 - 6:30 | 3:30 / 6:30 / 8:30 / 10:30

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Forbidding
- 5 Priscilla's man
- 10 Fish or funny follower
- 14 Assistant
- 15 Bets
- 16 Location
- 17 "Presumed Innocent" author
- 19 Fibber
- 20 North star
- 21 Proclaim
- 23 Destiny
- 24 Blood related prefix
- 25 Mormon abbr.
- 28 Showers affection
- 30 Indian prince
- 35 Jet
- 37 Cato's dozen
- 38 Cigar
- 39 National anthem name
- 42 Plaid fabric
- 43 Silent
- 44 Resting place
- 45 Snooze
- 46 Hardens
- 48 — Lanka
- 49 Long, narrative poem
- 51 DDE
- 53 Sorghum and sugar cane
- 57 Quieted
- 61 Amour
- 62 City near Phoenix
- 64 Pizza parlor item
- 65 Resort lake
- 66 Otherwise
- 67 Funny Lahr
- 68 Incline
- 69 Street

by Stanley B. Whitten

DOWN

- 1 Breathe laboriously
- 2 Puerto —
- 3 Hero
- 4 Basic character
- 5 Serum constituent
- 6 Gehrig and Rawls
- 7 NNE, e.g.
- 8 Eats away
- 9 More recent
- 10 Tumble
- 11 Diva's song
- 12 Raise
- 13 Stable occupant
- 18 Walked
- 22 French painter of note
- 24 Kind of disturbance
- 25 Raises
- 26 PGA tour name
- 27 Look fixedly
- 29 "My country, — of thee"
- 31 Part of B.A.
- 32 Prints
- 33 Keep — to the ground
- 34 Missouri town
- 36 Feed the kitty
- 38 Panel
- 40 May and Cod
- 41 Mongrel
- 46 Relating to finance
- 47 Snow runners
- 50 Gnats, et al.
- 52 Church official
- 53 Small drop
- 54 Wander
- 55 State strongly
- 56 Transmitted
- 57 Cease
- 58 Edouard —, composer
- 59 Noted illness
- 60 Act
- 63 Expression of discovery

Peanuts



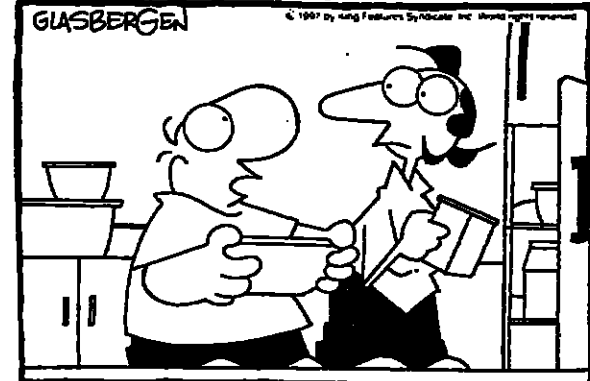
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"My dad hated to waste anything. Once he tried to make soup from leftover paint."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AMGUT

SHURC

FAHLE

LICTIE

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: IRATE PECAN RAVAGE EXTANT

Answer: Watching the tattoo artist work became this — PENETRATING

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argyle

I dare you to go in N-n-not me

WHAT A HAUNTED HOUSE BECOMES ON HALLOWEEN

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

191 Your sweetheart may have some... You'd be wise to listen to him... at a few weeks' time through your... person is going to try to ruin... is probably right. Don't put up with it.

01 If there's something you've been... long but haven't quite had the... a it off and see if it's all right... make some romantic plans for the... marvelous ideas by the way. Good luck.

11 You are going to be a very... and finances for the next few... come up with a plan. And... it. If you're going to do it, do it... about having a date after the... end.

21 You are going to be a very... and finances for the next few... come up with a plan. And... it. If you're going to do it, do it... about having a date after the... end.

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Business & Finance

Jordan Times, Wednesday, November 5, 1997 9

Daily Business Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Jordan — The Lion of the Desert

AT A business conference, organised by the European Institution Eurocom, in Egypt, a businessman criticised Egyptian businessmen for talking too much and not translating their words into actions. "You call for a unified Arab market but do not respond to the call; unlike Jordanians who invest in Egypt," the businessman, Shereen Dajani, told the conference which was attended by about 1,800 businessmen from Europe, Asia and America.

"Egyptians talk much about their very close ties with Jordan and about regional alliance between the two countries as well as joint interest and a nucleus for unified Arab action but they have not invested anything in Jordan despite spreading their investments abroad," Dr. Dajani said.

Dr. Dajani told the conference that there are around 300,000 Egyptians working in Jordan and four joint ventures (the Cairo Amman Bank, two food industries and one contracting firm) whereas Jordanian investments in Egypt have reached 1.6 billion Egyptian pounds through 120 projects in all fields.

She went on to say that Jordanians have tolerated all kinds of difficulties that hindered investments in Egypt during the 80s

but continued to invest unlike others who withdrew from the country.

"It is regrettable that Arabs speak publicly of regional dealing but compete secretly," she said, adding: "They produce the same products and get with each other in competing in international and regional markets."

Dr. Dajani emphasised that the fact remains that Arabs do not learn from lessons in the world markets. "They are simple lessons showing that cooperation among regional economies is the safest security for the future," she said noting that the future of the Arabs depends upon the extent of changes they are willing to effect on their thinking, behaviour and values.

"From this podium, I strongly call on all Egyptians to transform words into deeds, facts and realities by investing in Jordan and establishing the bases for joint action," Dr. Dajani emphasised.

Noting that the conference was held under the slogan: "Egypt — The Tiger on the Nile," she proposed that when a similar conference is held in Jordan it should be given the title of: "Jordan — The Lion of the Desert." (AJ Aswaj).

PhRMA complains to U.S. administration of increasing pharmaceutical piracy in Jordan

WASHINGTON (J.T.) — Citing a survey showing that pharmaceutical patent piracy is on the rise in Jordan, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) has asked the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to intensify diplomatic efforts to obtain adequate and effective patent protection for pharmaceuticals in Jordan.

Specifically, PhRMA reiterated its call for a "world-class" patent law in Jordan that would extend protection to finished products.

PhRMA's complaint was based on a recently completed industry survey of 16 U.S. and European research-based pharmaceutical companies active in Jordan. The survey found that Jordanian companies registered over thirty unauthorised copies of U.S. and European drugs during an eighteen month period from January 1996 until June 1997. PhRMA estimates that U.S. companies lose tens of millions of dollars annually to patent piracy in Jordan.

"By condoning patent piracy, Jordan is not only robbing U.S. pharmaceutical research companies of funds needed to discover and develop new medicines — it is also depriving its own people of the benefits of state-of-the-art medicine," said PhRMA Assistant Vice President Thomas Bombelles. He noted that, due to inadequate patent protection, U.S. companies

are "increasingly hesitant" to offer new products in Jordan and that this reluctance could slow the transfer of innovative medical technology to Jordan, diminishing the quality of patient care.

In April, the USTR named Jordan a Special 301 "Watch" country, citing inadequate intellectual property protection for pharmaceuticals and other intellectual property sensitive industries, such as software and video.

The designation was based in part on a PhRMA complaint made last February, which noted that "Jordan offers no pharmaceutical protection whatsoever" and that unauthorised copies of original, internationally patented pharmaceuticals often receive marketing approval simultaneously with the original product.

Dozens of unauthorised copies of U.S. products are exported, causing U.S. firms to suffer substantial losses in regional markets, PhRMA stated.

PhRMA also noted that the lack of improvement in pharmaceutical patent protection contrasts starkly with regional progress on intellectual property issues, citing the examples of a new patent law in Saudi Arabia and Turkey's decision to recognise patent rights.

In recent weeks, the United Arab Emirates has also announced that it will implement a patent law

protecting pharmaceutical compounds by January 2000.

Several studies, including two by the International Finance Corporation, an arm of the World Bank, found that valuable, high technology investment in the pharmaceutical sector is greatly dependent on the quality of a country's intellectual property regime.

Surveys of U.S., German and Japanese pharmaceutical companies have shown that such investors will avoid licensing, manufacturing, research or investing in countries where intellectual property rights are not respected and enforced.

"At a time when Jordan is searching for direct investment to drive economic growth, an increase in pirating activities and a standard intellectual property system can only hurt the country's prospects," said Mr. Bombelles. "In contrast, a strong patent regime could help Jordan improve both its economy and its health care system."

PhRMA represents the U.S. leading research-based pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, which are devoted to inventing medicines that allow patients to lead longer, happier, healthier and more productive lives. Investing nearly \$19 billion this year in discovering and developing new medicines, PhRMA companies are leading the way in the search for cures.

Arab fund lends Jordan \$112 million to build three dams

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Kuwait-based Arab Social and Economic Development Fund (ASEDF) will extend 34 million Kuwaiti dinars to the Ministry of Planning to finance building developmental projects in Wadi Hassa, Mujib and Walaah.

According to Water and Irrigation Minister Munther Haddadin, the 34-million dinar loan (\$112 million) will be spent on construct-

ing three dams on the above-mentioned valleys.

Dr. Haddadin said the total cost of the project is estimated at \$200 million which will be financed by the ASEDF and the government of Yugoslavia which will build the Mujib Dam near the Dead Sea at a cost of \$50 million.

The minister added that work on these projects will start next week.

Gulf states set to privatise power sector

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states are set to embark on a major programme to privatise their electricity sectors to ease financial pressures caused by weak oil prices and heavy defence spending, experts have said.

Oman has taken the lead in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), setting up the region's first privately-managed power project and announcing plans for more ventures.

Saudi Arabia, the world's dominant oil power, said this week its water and electricity sector would be among the government enterprises to be partly sold off to the public under economic reforms.

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Abu Dhabi government has decided to invite local and foreign investors to contribute to a giant hydro-electric project. Other states in the region are considering similar reforms.

"The GCC states are actively examining the privatisation option for a number of industries and infrastructure projects," said Achilles Adamantidis, director of engineering at the Washington-based Infrastructure Capital Group.

"The main motivation for this development is to open opportunities for investment for local as well as for foreign capital and to reduce the obligation of the state budgets," he said in a paper to a conference here on "privatisation and deregulation in the Gulf energy sector."

Delegates attending the two-day conference, organised by the state-run Emirates Institute for Strategic Studies and Research, said GCC countries need to pump more than \$30 billion over the next eight years to expand their electricity sectors to meet a rapid growth in consumption.

"It will ensure future

power supplies, upgrade the electricity sector and ease pressure on Gulf budgets. This will enable them to save large funds, which could be channelled into other development projects in the region," said Mohammed Abdul Baqi, manager of the state-controlled Emirates Industrial Bank.

Opening the meeting, Sheikh Dhiyab Ben Zayed Al-Nahayan, a member of the UAE royal family, said GCC states were giving priority to privatisation in reform programmes aimed at cushioning the impact of lower oil prices.

"In Abu Dhabi, the government intends to embark on a large-scale programme to privatise its water and electricity sectors. Indeed, such a move is expected to have a positive impact on the emirate's development process," said the Sheikh, who heads a government committee entrusted with the privatisation of Al-Tawila hydro-electric plant near Abu Dhabi city.

Officials said this week French company Total and several other Western firms had been shortlisted for participating in the third phase of Al-Tawila venture, to be launched in 1998.

The first two stages of the project, one of the biggest water desalination ventures in the world, have already been completed.

They have a combined production capacity of around 100 million gallons (360 million litres) of drinking water per day and more than 2,000 megawatts of electricity.

The cost of the three phases had been estimated at more than \$3 billion in mid-1980s but industry sources said it had sharply increased.

"Privatisation of the third stage of Al-Tawila is just a beginning. More power and water facilities will be shared with the private sector in the near future," an Abu Dhabi official said.

ABB slashes European workforce to boost Asian operations

ZURICH, Switzerland (AFP) — The Swiss engineering group ABB is to slash 10,000 jobs in Europe and the United States to boost productivity and expand its operations in Asia.

Huge demand for infrastructure in Asia would drive up profits, the company forecast, unveiling unexpectedly weak nine-month earnings and forecasting a flat outcome for the year.

The company said it would take a fourth-quarter exceptional charge of 850 million, most of which will be earmarked for restructuring.

The job losses would be concentrated in the high-cost economies of Germany, Sweden and Switzerland, where the company has already cut substantially in the past five years, and in Italy, Spain and the United States.

Analysts said that the measures would cut ABB's west European workforce by about 10.0 per cent and reduce its full European workforce to 130,000 from 150,000 in 1991.

"By acting early, we reduce the threat of significantly larger employment effects in our Western operations over the longer term," Goran Lindahl, ABB president and chief executive officer said.

ABB has 33,000 employees in Asia from 19,000 in

dropped by four per cent to \$774 million, disappointing the market which had expected a two to three per cent earnings rise.

Net profit for the year would be "somewhat lower" than the figure of \$1,233 billion last year, the group forecast.

The group's financial results have been hit by the strength of the dollar which has risen against many of the currencies, chiefly in Asia and Europe, in which the firm books local business.

Financial upheaval in South East Asia is having an impact on the bottom line. ABB announced that its fourth-quarter charge would include \$100 million arising from "indefinite delay" of the Bakun hydro-electric project in Malaysia.

But the conglomerate is counting that the economic slowdown in South East Asia, generated by a currency crisis this summer in Thailand, will be short-lived and is using the time to lay the groundwork for when demand bounces back.

"We remain confident that given the region's need for infrastructure investments, our Asian business will enjoy strong long-term and profitable growth, though in a more competitive environment," Mr. Lindahl said.

ABB has 33,000 employees in Asia from 19,000 in

1991 and 100 local outfits covering a range of businesses totalling up orders of \$8 billion last year.

Its biggest single market is Malaysia. India, where staff numbers jumped to 9,802 last year from 7,761 in 1991, is set to become a larger production base and export market within the next five years. China, where sales are currently negligible in terms of overall Asian revenue, could take off once it has boosted electricity generating capacity, analysts said.

ABB's latest Asian initiative received raves by some pundits. "I would say it's a brilliant step. It's an anticipatory, not a reactive move," said Pictet and Company analyst Volkan Goecmen who recommends the stock as a "priority" buy.

"The competition has been sleeping in Asia. ABB could continue with this restructuring and still be better off than its rivals," in the region he said.

Cost-cutting was one element driving ABB to shrink its Western workforce as products such as engines became commodities and too expensive to manufacture in high-wage economies, analysts said.

Other key considerations were efforts to be closer to clients, growing numbers of whom were in Asia, and smoothing out logistical problems.

REUTERS The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.7225	0.5938	1.4035	122.05	1.4009	1688.50	1.9420	5.7712
DE Mark	0.5806	-	0.3444	0.8147	70.89	0.8131	978.92	1.1273	3.3499
GB Sterling	1.6842	2.9025	-	2.3842	205.29	2.3594	2844.11	3.2703	9.7187
CH Franc	0.7125	1.2264	0.4225	-	88.94	0.9974	1202.49	138.09	4.1084
JP Yen	0.0082	1.4102	0.4858	1.1490	-	1.1469	13.82	158.58	4.7239
CA Dollar	0.7138	1.2275	0.4236	1.0006	1.15	-	1203.48	1.3838	4.1127
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0200	0.3514	0.0831	1384.66	0.8296	-	11.50	3.4169
NL Guilder	0.5149	88.65	0.3054	72.26	62.81	0.7210	868.69	-	2.8697
FR Franc	0.1733	0.2984	0.1028	24.3140	21.13	0.2427	33.64	33.6400	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	OAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7080	3.7505	0.3770	3.8405	0.3033	3.6725	1534.00	3.3900
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	-	5.2973	0.5325	5.1419	0.4284	5.1871	2166.67	4.7881
Saudi Riyal	0.2686	0.1888	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0809	0.98	409.01	0.9039
Bahrain Dinar	2.85	1.8780	9.9485	-	9.86	0.8045	9.74	4069.07	9.8923
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0302	1.0302	-	0.0833	1.01	421.37	0.8312
Kuwait Dinar	2.7373	2.3345	12.3685	1.2430	12.00	-	12.11	5058.03	0.9312
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0212	1.0207	0.9913	0.0826	-	417.70	0.9231
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4815	2.4440	0.2458	2.3732	0.1977	2.3941	-	2.2098
Egyptian	0.2950	0.2088	1.1063	0.1112	1.0739	0.0895	1.0833	452.51	-

Energy		USD	DEM
Brent	19.19	20.46	
W. Texas	20.68	20.68	
Bonny	19.19	20.46	
Dubai	18.00	19.45	
UL Gas	192.00	195.00	

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2686	0.4594	0.15831	0.37449	32.569
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.48915	0.16168	0.38244	32.2813
KW Dinar	3.2973	5.88182	1.95771	4.83177	402.739
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.57038	1.57505	3.72578	324.044
CY Pound	1.9669	3.3885	1.1672	2.761	240.097

Metal Prices			Gold	Offer
Gold (oz's)	313.6	314.1		
Silver (oz's)	4.85	4.87		
Platinum (oz's)	406.2	408.2		
AL (3 Months)	1825	1829		
CU (3 Months)	1985	1990		
Zinc (3 Months)	1242	1246		
Lead (3 Months)	608	611		
Ni (3 Months)	6170	6200		

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Currency	Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	Year
USD	5.56	5.88	5.71	5.77	5.85
GBP	7.17	7.29	7.34	7.25	7.43
JPY	0.39	0.36	0.38	0.38	0.39
DEM	3.53	3.74	3.70	3.86	4.06
FRF	3.41	3.54	3.69	3.85	3.99
CHF	1.35	1.77	1.88	2.00	2.12
ITL	6.85	6.55	6.23	5.92	5.71

Energy		
Commodity	Unit	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	145.33	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1629	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	308.5	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	140	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	25.42	Spot
Tea (c/lbs/kg)	156	Spot
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	410	Spot

Jordan among 12 countries competing in S. West Asian Games

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom will be competing against 11 Asian countries when the Southwest Asian Games begin in Tehran, Iran Nov. 17-28.

With the start of the two-week countdown to the games, the organizing committee announced that Tehran will be hosting 12 countries and athletes will be competing in 18 sports.

A 50-member delegation will represent Jordan in 11 events: Athletics, boxing, fencing, gymnastics, shooting, badminton, tennis, cycling, wrestling, weightlifting and judo. The games also include basketball, karate, table tennis, soccer, handball, taekwondo and swimming.

The first ever West Asian Games — open to men's teams only — will bring together athletes from Saudi Arabia, Syria, Palestine, Oman, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Yemen, Jordan and Iran.

The Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) announced that it had approved the participation of 37 athletes and 13 officials after a long delay resulting from unresponsive federations who only named their athletes two weeks before the games kick off.

While the Iranian Olympic Committee will be covering accommodation leaving only air-fare to be paid by the respective participating countries, many federations have shied away, unable to cover the needed expenses.

Among the Kingdom's declining federations are equestrian, handball, basketball, volleyball and table tennis.

In an effort to increase the Kingdom's competitive chances by including athletes in top form, the JOC decided to sponsor medal-winning athletes at July's Pan-Arab Games, while the rest of the federations will cover their own expenses.

Jordan took a total of 40 medals, including 10 gold, 8 silver and 22 bronze medals to finish fifth among the 19 participating countries gaining more gold medals in Beirut than in the past seven Pan-Arab Games altogether, and capping the best Jordanian participation since the event was first held in 1953.

Onlookers had criticised the JOC for asking the over-burdened federations to cover expenses when their annual budgets do not correspond with their expenses — a fact that leads many excellent federations to miss participation.

However, the JOC's decision to sponsor excellent players paved the way to include athletes in top form to the Kingdom's delegation.

Twelve medal-winners are included in the delegation including Fakhruddin Fuad and Tareq Najjar (athletics), Mousa Khalaf (judo), Mohammad Abu Khadijeh, Ayman Nadi, Kamal Abdul Hamid, Khaldoun Abdul Hamid and Basel Hindawi (boxing), Abdul Hakim Abu Snehneh and Ismail Sheikh (wrestling), Ayed Khawaldeh (weightlifting), and Amer Natour (fencing).

(fencing).

Three of the federations participating in the Tehran Games were impressive in Beirut.

The boxing, athletics and weightlifting teams earned five medals each while the wrestlers took four. Judo and fencing earned a medal each.

On the other hand, the competitive form of some of the participating federations who did not take part in Beirut is unknown. Those include gymnastics, badminton, cycling and tennis.

Others who took part like shooting were unimpressive and easily eliminated from the top qualifying positions. This time however, the team is made up of athletes from the armed forces and Public Security Department.

Some of the declining federations had either impressive results at the Pan-Arab Games or are considered to have good teams that should be best prepared for the 9th Pan-Arab Games in 2001 which will be held in Jordan.

Table tennis took two bronze medals in both the doubles and the team event.

While basketball failed to earn a medal, Jordan has regrouped a new line-up of young stars who finished 6th in Lebanon and 7th in the recently-concluded Asian Championship. Jordan was Arab Champion in the 1985 Pan-Arab Games.

Also missing the event are the handball and equestrian teams as well as Jordan's soccer team who won the gold medal at the Pan-Arab Games.

Mexico qualifies for World Cup

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Nobody celebrated when Mexico qualified for the World Cup. The point the team needed came from a 0-0 tie with the United States — which had lost all 17 times it had come to Mexico City.

The more than 100,000 fans at Aztec Stadium were furious. They raised their fists, whistled obscene catcalls and chanted for the ouster of their coach, Bora Milutinovic.

"If we're going to play like this in the World Cup, we shouldn't even go," said Patricia Toris, a 24-year-old secretary who painted her face red, white and green — the colours of the Mexican flag — for the game.

"We don't want Bora in Mexico any more," said Arturo Ceballos, a 17-year-old student. "If this team goes to France, we won't get through the first round."

At a postgame news conference, Milutinovic said "a soccer coach always keeps his suitcase packed," and threatened to walk out after a Mexican reporter asked if the game was fixed.

"None of us is as happy as we should be," he said. "But after all, we are in first place."

The Americans were ecstatic. Mexico City is a tough place to play because of its 7,200-foot altitude and heavy smog — to say nothing for its team, the strongest in the region.

Mexico had won all previous 17 home games against the United States since 1937, outscoring the Americans 69-13.

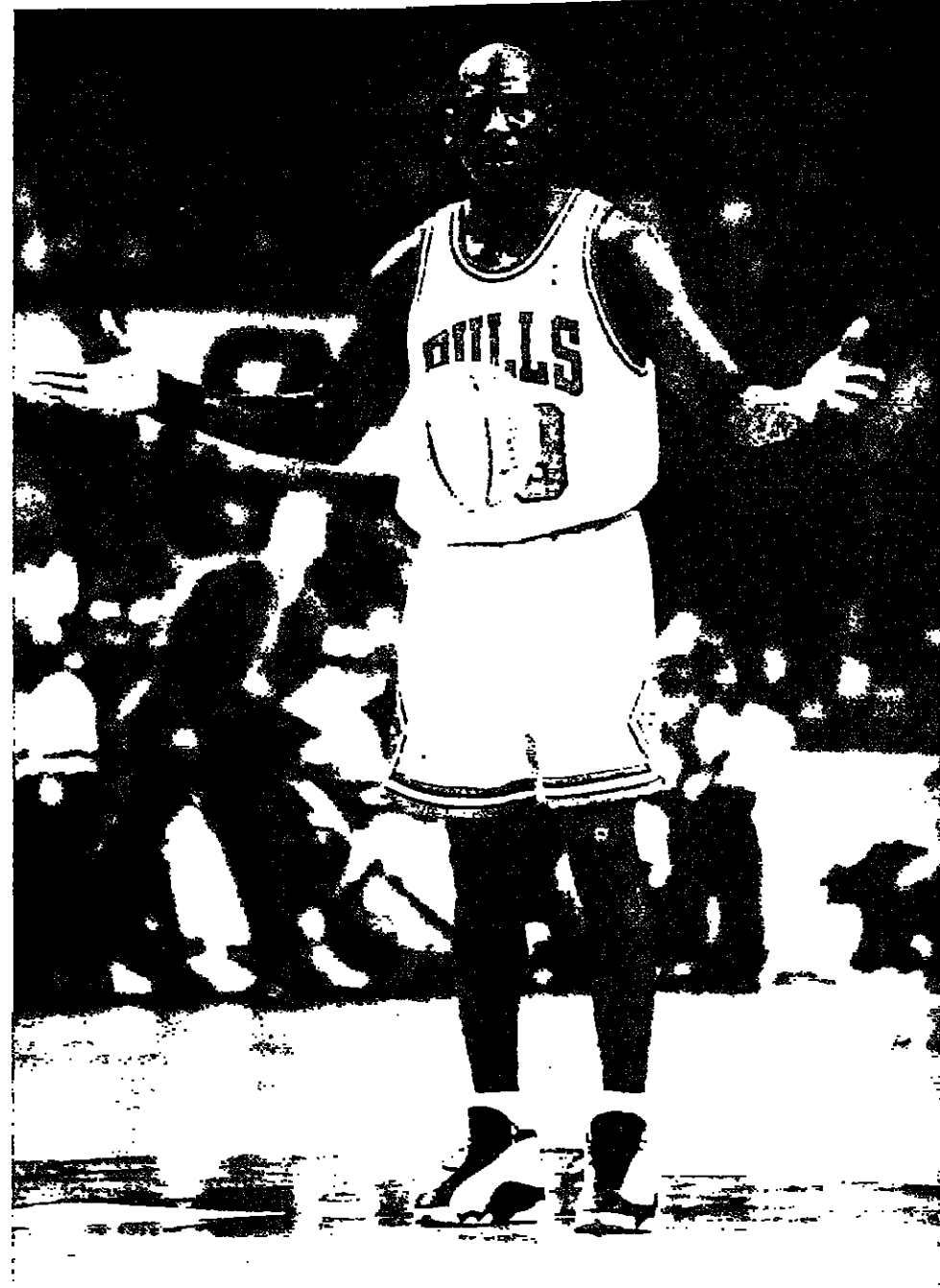
"I think anybody would be happy with one point coming to Mexico," U.S. forward Eric Wynalda said. "It's a very difficult place to play."

With a tie next Sunday at Canada, the United States would move into a commanding position for a World Cup berth. The Americans play their final game against El Salvador on Nov. 16 at Foxboro, Massachusetts.

"We consider this a golden point," said a beaming U.S. coach Steve Sampson. "It's very important now that we maintain the discipline and unity that we displayed in this game when we go into the Canada match."

With the tie, Mexico (4-0-4) became the 22nd country to clinch a spot for the 32-nation world cup in France. It leads the six-team finals of soccer's North and Central American and Caribbean region with 16 points. Jamaica (3-2-3), which plays at El Salvador next Sunday, is second with 12 points and the United States (2-1-5) is third with 11.

The top three teams will qualify, which means the Americans are in good position to advance to the tournament for the third straight time. El Salvador (2-3-3) is fourth with nine points, followed by Costa Rica (2-4-2) and Canada (1-4-3).



Chicago Bulls' guard Michael Jordan gestures to his teammates after bringing the ball downcourt during the first quarter of their NBA game against the San Antonio Spurs in Chicago (Reuters photo)

Bulls overcome Spurs in OT

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan rescued the Chicago Bulls again Monday night.

He hit a 3-pointer to force overtime, made a tying jumper in the first overtime and scored three of Chicago's final four points in the second extra period as the Bulls outlasted the San Antonio Spurs 87-83.

Jordan, who shot just 12-of-39 from the field, finished with 29 points and 13 rebounds. Dennis Rodman had 22 rebounds for the Bulls.

San Antonio rookie Tim Duncan also had 22 rebounds along with 19 points. David Robinson had 21 points and 12 rebounds for the Spurs.

Chicago led by four in the second overtime but Robinson dunked and Rodman drew a technical foul for lowering his shoulder into his former teammate on the play.

Jaren Jackson's free throw cut the lead to one with 2:14 remaining.

The Spurs had a chance for the lead but Jordan made a steal and Rodman and Ron Harper grabbed offensive rebounds as the Bulls kept the ball before Jordan scored again for an 85-82 lead.

Wizards 90, Jazz 86: In Salt Lake City, Chris Webber scored 26 points and Rod Strickland had 17 points and nine assists as the Washington Wizards snapped Utah's 14-game home winning streak.

Karl Malone led the Jazz with 21 points, but last year's MVP missed three jumpers late in the game as Washington survived a Utah rally.

Both teams are now 1-2. Malone tied the game at 73 by hitting two free throws with 3:22 left, but

Strickland and Calbert Cheaney hit clutch jumpers down the stretch to seal the victory.

Hornets 112, Heat 99: In Miami, Glen Rice scored 28 points as the Charlotte Hornets won their first game of the season.

The Hornets, who lost their first two games, also got 20 points from David Wesley and 16 points apiece from Matt Geiger and Del Curry.

Rice, the NBA's third-leading scorer last season with a 26.8 average, scored a total of only 21 points in his first two games this season, but he snapped out of his slump against his former team, making 11 of 17 shots from the field and grabbing eight rebounds.

Jamal Mashburn scored 18 points for Miami, which was bidding for a 3-0 start for only the second time in franchise history.

Seven in contention for three Hanover finals places

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — With a week to go before Tuesday's start of the ATP World Championships in Germany, the race for the last three places in the field is tightening.

Greg Rusedski overcame a debilitating stomach virus Monday night, to beat Swede Nicklas Kulti 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 at the Stockholm Open to put a Briton into the elite eight for the first time in tennis history.

After joining Pete Sampras, Michael Chang, Patrick Rafter and Jonas Bjorkman in the field at Hanover, the 24-year-old Rusedski was promptly ordered to bed by doctors in the hope he could get fit for a second-round contest on Thursday at the Kungliga Tennishallen.

This week's last round of regular-season Tour events in Stockholm, Moscow and Santiago will determine the complete line-up for the season-ending extravaganza, which begins round-robin play next Tuesday.

The men still in the fight are: Spain's Carlos Moya and Sergi Bruguera, Thomas Muster, Gustavo Kuerten, Marcelo Rios, Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Petr Korda.

Tuesday's evening showcase match at Stockholm could help answer at least one question.

Moya, first in the queue for a Hanover spot, faces a re-match of an Australian Open first-rounder when he plays German icon Boris Becker.

Becker is winding down his career as he approaches the age of 30 and concentrating on German Davis Cup and Mercedes junior team coaching duties. But the four-time Stockholm champion will be fighting hard to take revenge for Moya's upset win in Melbourne 11 months ago.

Two Spaniards have already been knocked out of the chase: Alex Corretja was beaten in straight sets Monday night in Stockholm by Australian Michael Tabbutt while compatriot Felix Mantilla went out in his opening match in Moscow.

Kuerten, the French Open holder, needs a Moscow semi-final in order to make the finale field while Rios must win his home event in Santiago.

Kafelnikov is searching for a Moscow finals showing to keep his chances alive. Korda, who won in Stuttgart last month, must repeat as Moscow champion.

Jets take over first place in AFC East

NEW YORK (AP) — When Bill Parcells took over the bedraggled New York Jets last February, he figured he would make them a first-place team in the U.S. National Football League.

But in half a season? With backup quarterback Glenn Foley coming off the bench to lead them for the second straight game, the Jets beat Baltimore 19-16 on John Hall's 37-yard field goal in overtime.

Combined with new England's 23-18 loss to Minnesota and Miami's 9-6 loss in Buffalo, it put the Jets (6-3) in first place for the first time this late in 11 seasons. New England, Miami and Buffalo (all 5-4) are in a three-way tie for second.

"Now there is a different kind of pressure," Parcells said.

"We're playing with the lead and everyone is after you. I don't know if they'll be able to handle that. It's a new experience for this team. But we'll see."

In other early games, Tampa Bay broke a three-game losing streak by beating winless Indianapolis 31-28.

And San Diego's Eric Metcalf became the NFL's career kick-return leader by returning two punts for touchdowns for San Diego in Cincinnati's 38-31 win over the Chargers. He went 85 yards in the second quarter and 67 yards in the fourth, his ninth and 10th career TD returns.

Elsewhere, Carolina beat Oakland 38-14, and it was Washington 31, Chicago 8; and Atlanta 34, St. Louis 31.

In late games, Dallas was at San Francisco, Seattle at Denver, Jacksonville at Tennessee and Philadelphia at Arizona. Detroit was at Green Bay on Sunday night.

Foley, who replaced Neil O'Donnell after halftime and led the Jets to a win over New England two weeks ago, came on in the fourth quarter this time. After Vinny Testaverde tied the game at 16-all on a pass to Derrick Alexander with three seconds left in regulation, Foley drove the Jets 60 yards to set up Hall's game-winning field goal.

Hall took off his helmet and pranced around the field before being mobbed by his teammates as sunshine broke out after a day of rain, wind and thunder. It was the rookie's first game-winning and was further evidence of the Jets' revival from two years under Rich Kotite in which they were 4-28.

"This keeps us in the race and now I know we'll be in the race until the last month, at least."

Vikings 23, Patriots 18: New England's offense and special teams stumbled most of the game against the Vikings (7-2), who won their fifth straight game.

Moe Williams' 74-yard return of the opening kickoff set up a field goal, and Minnesota never trailed. John Randle led the Vikings' defense that allowed the Patriots only three points in three quarters and rarely gave drew blood to throw.

Robert Green's recovery of Cris Carter's fumble at the New England 1 set up a touchdown run by Williams. Brad Johnson's 28-yard TD pass to Carter



Pittsburgh Steelers Jerome Bettis (R) rushes around the left end for a gain of 12 yards before Kansas City Chiefs Dale Carter (34) runs him out of bounds during their NFL Monday Night Football game in Kansas City (Reuters photo)

with 2:39 remaining clinched the game.

Buccaneers 31, Colts 28: In Indianapolis, Karl Williams scored two touchdowns, set up another TD with a 63-yard punt return and put Tampa Bay (6-3) in position for Michael Husted's winning field goal with eight seconds left.

Husted missed a critical extra point last week in a 10-6 loss by the Bucs. The Colts (0-9), the NFL's only winless team, took a 28-21 lead behind third-string quarterback Kelly Holcomb, but Trent Dilfer's 24-yard TD pass to Williams tied it.

"It wasn't as artistic a win as we would have hoped for," coach Tony Dungy said.

Bengals 38, Chargers 31: Cincinnati (2-7) won for the first time since the opening week, getting three second-quarter touchdowns off turnovers, one of them John Copeland's 25-yard fumble return.

But no one but Metcalf could do much for San Diego (4-5), which lost Stan Humphries in the third quarter with his second concussion in three games.

Bills 9, Dolphins 6: Steve Christie had field goals of 41, 40 and 39 yards for the Bills (5-4), who overcame six fumbles and a muffed punt on the rain-slicked turf at Rich Stadium. The last came with

10:42 left in the game to break a 6-6 tie.

Dan Marino sprained his left ankle and left in the third quarter after going just 4-of-14 for 67 yards and throwing an interception.

Panthers 38, Raiders 14: Fred Lane, a free-agent rookie, replaced the injured Tshimanga Biakabutuka and ran for three touchdowns as the Panthers (5-4) ran for a franchise-record 216 yards and won their third straight.

Carolina had five rushing touchdowns against the NFL's worst defense. Kerry Collins threw for 198 yards and ran for one score.

Redskins 31, Bears 8: The Redskins (5-4) scored on their first three possessions, going 76, 55 and 80 yards for touchdowns against Chicago (1-8).

Terry Allen, who had missed the previous two games with a sprained knee, finished with 125 yards on 20 carries.

Falcons 34, Rams 31: Morten Andersen's 27-yard field goal with two seconds left gave Atlanta (2-7) its win.

Isaac Bruce had 233 receiving yards for the Rams (2-7), who tied the score at 31 on Tony Banks' 1-yard scramble with 1:10 left. But Harold Green caught a 19-yard pass, then ran 22 yards to help set up Andersen's winning kick.

CINEMA	TEL: 634144	CINEMA	TEL: 634144	CINEMA	TEL: 699258	CINEMA	TEL: 677420	CINEMA	TEL: 099 3340	CINEMA	TEL: 099 3340	Risham Yanes Theatre	TEL: 625155
PHILADELPHIA "1"		PHILADELPHIA "2"		PLAZA		CONCORD		GALLERIA 1		GALLERIA 2		Watch out for the new play	
Wesley Snipes & Patrick Swayze ... in		007 GOLDEN EYE		Van Damme... in		CONCORD "1" Sylvester Stallone & Brigitte Neilson ... in		ABDOUN Walt Disney's		ABDOUN		THE GOVERNMENT	
TO WONG FOO				DOUBLE TEAM		COBRA (12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30)		HERCULLES		SCREAM		IN THE SERVICE	
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD "2" Alec Baldwin & Kim Basinger ... in		Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30		Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		OF PEOPLE	
						TOO HOT TO HANDLE		CON AIR				Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas	
						Shows: 3:30, 5:45 only		Shows: 8:30, 10:45					

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Iraq postpones deadline for expelling Americans

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — In a move to defuse the U.N.-Iraq crisis, the Iraqis suspended their order Tuesday for American arms inspectors to leave the country, and the U.N. chief said a senior Iraqi would come to New York to discuss the issue of U.N. weapons inspectors.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan also called on "all sides," presumably the United States and Iraq, to hold down their rhetoric. President Bill Clinton warned Iraq on Tuesday not to try and shoot down American U-2 planes flying surveillance missions over Iraq on behalf of the U.N. weapons inspectors.

"Threats and counter-threats are not conducive to these kinds of negotiations," U.N. chief Annan told reporters. "So I appeal to everyone to restrain themselves and give the process a chance."

Iraq's official news agency said the order for the Americans to leave by Thursday 1:00 a.m. Iraq local time, would be delayed "until the end of the discussion which will take place in the Security Council" after U.N. emissaries return to New York from Baghdad.

Diplomats from Algeria, Argentina and Sweden are due in Baghdad on Wednesday to urge the Iraqis to rescind their expulsion order and comply with U.N. resolutions requiring they cooperate with U.N. weapons inspectors.

They are expected to return to New York this weekend and brief the Security Council on Monday, U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard announced the Iraqi decision Tuesday but said only that Mr. Annan had been assured the Americans could stay as long as the emissaries were in Baghdad.

But it appeared the agreement with the Iraqis went beyond that, and that the United Nations had arranged a deal where Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz would come to New York to argue his government's case personally before the Security Council.

The Iraqis claimed the American inspectors were delaying final certification that Iraq had fulfilled U.N. orders to destroy banned weapons. Only then will the council lift sanctions imposed in 1990 when President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait.

The Iraqis also want a deadline on the duration of inspections. They hope Security Council members such as Russia, France and China will agree. Those countries have lucrative

contracts waiting to kick in as soon as sanctions are lifted.

Although the U.N. announcement had made no mention of Mr. Aziz's visit, Mr. Annan confirmed that the Iraqi official would return to New York with the three-member U.N. mediation team.

"He is not excluded," U.N. chief Annan said. "He had indicated that he would want to be here when the Security Council takes up the report of the mission."

The United States and Britain had insisted that there be no negotiations with Iraq on the weapons inspection issue. But France, Russia, China and Egypt have argued for patience with the Iraqis and have said Baghdad is making progress in complying with U.N. orders.

The mission is a three-envoy team who will begin three days of talks with Iraqi leaders on Wednesday.

The United Nations wants the three envoys to tell Iraq to call off its threat to expel Americans on U.N. arms inspections teams, as well as to allow U-2 flights over Iraq to continue without interference.

The Security Council had warned of "serious consequences" if the expulsions are carried out.

The Iraqi deputy prime

minister would need a visa from the United States to enter the country. A U.S. diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he did not know whether the Mr. Aziz visit had been finalised.

Mr. Annan said his envoys would "discuss with the Iraqi authorities the importance of Iraq complying with Security Council resolutions governing the work of the U.N. team" and not negotiating new conditions.

U.N. inspectors, speaking on condition of anonymity, say Iraq is far from complying with even the minimal terms of the U.N. disarmament orders.

In its statement, the Iraqi News Agency said the decision to delay the expulsions was taken "with the wish to prepare the positive environment for the success of the mission sent by the secretary-general which will lead to the lifting of the oppression on Iraq," meaning sanctions.

Iraq claims it has complied and accuses the Americans of stalling in order to keep the "oppressive" sanctions in place.



A veiled Muslim woman holds her son as she casts her vote at the Baqaa refugee camp, north of Amman, in the Jordanian elections, on Tuesday (Reuters photo)



Ukrainian elderly prevent robbers snatching pensions

KIEV (AFP) — A group of elderly Ukrainians fought off two masked robbers armed with imitation shot-guns, as they tried to snatch money for paying their old-age pensions, the press reported Tuesday. The pair made their way into a post office after drinking a bottle of vodka and attempted to make off with the money for pensions which are often paid several months late in Ukraine. But as the intruders attempted to flee, several dozen pensioners surrounded them and began hitting them. Police subsequently arrested two men, aged 23 and 25, who now face up to five years in jail.

Britain starts crime-busting group run by kids

LONDON (AFP) — A group of 12 children are about to become Britain's first "citizens' jury," made up of minors in a novel attempt to help fight crime in the country. The group, which will be drawn from a northern English mining town, Grimethorpe, will meet Nov. 19 and 21, hearing testimony from police and other officials involved in crime-busting operations before coming up with a plan on how to improve the task. The plan will particularly look at tackling the illegal drug trade and will be presented to another group of (adult) politicians, businessmen and local associations. Organised by Grimethorpe's authorities and backed by the government, the "jury" idea has already attracted 400 applications from youngsters aged between 11 and 16 who want to take part. Similar children's working groups already exist in Germany and the United States.

Bobbitt to abandon glitz of show biz

WASHINGTON (AFP) — John Wayne Bobbitt, who achieved global fame when he severed his penis in a marital dispute, is set to abandon the glitz of show business for a more simple life. Saying he's through with the talk-show circuit and porno films, Bobbitt, 30, moved last month from Las Vegas to Fallon, a small farm town in northern Nevada where four of his five brothers live. He plans to find a job and go fishing and camping. "I want people to get to know me for who I am and not what the media make me out to be. I want to let the past be gone and move on," he told the Lahontan Valley News and Fallon Eagle Standard. "I did a couple of adult movies but I don't want to make a career out of it because my parents didn't want me to," he said. Bobbitt said he is also writing a book about his life and former wife.

No sex please, we're sight-seeing

LONDON (AFP) — Plumber Dave Gardner, his wife and family, recently saw more than they bargained for on a sight-seeing tour of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, when they stumbled on a couple having sex behind the cathedral's American Memorial. Gardner, who lodged an official complaint with the cathedral's registrar, told the Tuesday edition of the Daily Mail: "It was absolutely outrageous. It was obvious what they were doing." The couple were ordered out and a stunned Dean of St. Paul's, the Very Reverend John Moss, said the incident was being investigated. Noting that the cathedral was always full of tourists, the dean said "they would have had to be pretty desperate" although he acknowledged the American Memorial was one of the less visited parts of the cathedral. Kissing in the whispering gallery is one thing, he said, but this was "gross and there is nothing that can justify behaviour of that kind in a sacred place."

Crisis in Iraq overshadows foreign coverage of elections

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Just as the rain kept many voters away from the polls yesterday, the unfolding crisis between Iraq and the U.N. occupied the minds of foreign correspondents, who were in town to cover the elections.

"Unfortunately, the Jordanian elections have been overshadowed by the Iraqi crisis, and correspondents who originally came here for the elections turned their attention towards Iraq," said National Public Radio correspondent Eric Weiner.

After Baghdad turned back three U.S. inspectors Sunday, many foreign media rushed to ask for visas at the Iraqi embassy, but not as many foreign journalists showed up yesterday at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), where a well-equipped information centre for the elections was set up.

But the new crisis in Iraq is not the only reason for foreign media's "apathetic" attitude towards the elections.

Many foreign correspondents described the election campaign as uninspiring and agreed that they did not see much enthusiasm in the streets of Amman or other cities.

"I feel a general apathy by Jordanians towards these elections, which will translate into a low turnout," said France's Europe One Radio correspondent George Malbruno, who has been covering the Middle East for four years.

An international magazine

correspondent said he was having difficulties in convincing his editors that "the story was worth it," while a Canadian television reporter said she was going to file only one report on the elections.

Echoing other colleagues, Mr. Malbruno said the boycott by the Islamists and some left-leaning groups has deprived this year's campaign of hot issues like the peace process and normalisation with Israel.

In their coverage, correspondents said they cited the boycott as an important factor in the elections of Jordan's 13th Parliament.

"The boycott is a very significant aspect of these elections, but it will take time to be clearly understood," commented Italian RAI radio correspondent Riccardo Cristiano.

It could mark the beginning of a delicate phase in regime-opposition relations, especially because the Islamists will have to raise their voices in order to be heard from outside Parliament," he said.

In addition to the withdrawal of important political actors from the race, correspondents also believe that the stalemate in the peace process, and consequent increasing economic difficulties, have kept away many voters from the polls.

"I feel the people in general, and the middle class in particular, are frustrated at the deteriorating economic situation," Mr. Malbruno told the Jordan Times.

Correspondents described yesterday's vote as "mainly

tribal" and highlighted the discrepancies between urban areas, where the turnout was lower, and traditional and rural areas, that witnessed relatively higher turnout.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Middle East correspondent Wolfgang Kohler, who travelled around remote southern areas as well as densely populated cities, said he found people in urban areas "more politically aware and acting more as individuals rather than tribe-members."

According to Mr. Kohler, a veteran of the Middle East, "there is a discrepancy between the image of Jordan projected abroad and its reality, which is one of a tribal society."

"Clearly people are still voting along tribal lines," agreed Mr. Weiner.

"I heard a lot of complaints similar to those of American voters," he added.

In many cases, according to Mr. Weiner, potential voters criticised candidates for empty slogans, without proposing concrete solutions to the people's real problems.

"Other people lamented lack of personal freedoms and freedom of expression," he added.

"But, at least, here they are able to express these ideas, while in other Arab countries this debate is not taking place openly."

Oran leads in Tafileh

AMMAN (J.T.) — In the southern district of Tafileh, where 17 candidates were running for the three Muslim seats, Arab Land Party Secretary General Mohammad Oran won with 2,967 votes, independent Islamist Abdullah Akaileh won with 2,104 votes and Sidqi Shabatat won with 2,092 votes.

Dr. Akaileh, a former Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputy who was recently expelled from the Muslim Brotherhood for defying their boycott of the elections, is elected for the fourth time in a row.

The voter turnout in Tafileh was the highest among all of Jordan's constituencies with 72 per cent of the card-holders casting their votes on Tuesday.

However, Rateb Saoud, who was one of the 11 candidates countrywide running under the National Constitutional Party's ticket, failed to collect enough votes, although he was expected to be a front-runner in Tafileh.

Mohammad Daoudieh, who in the 1993 elections, won with 2,568 votes, but did not run this time.

Ma'an's win deprives Wadi Mousa, Shobak

AMMAN (J.T.) — Fears by the people of Wadi Mousa and Shobak came true yesterday when all parliamentary seats in the constituency of Ma'an went to candidates from the city of Ma'an itself, leaving the inhabitants of the two towns without representation in the Lower House.

Former Ministry of Agriculture official Ahmad Abu Akalah won with 2,767 votes. Professor of Shari'ah at Mu'tah University Walid Awajan won with 2,345 votes, and school headmaster Nayef Abu Hilaleh won with 1,961 votes.

With less than half of the votes in the district (6,900 in Wadi Mousa, 5,815 in Shobak), the chance of the eight candidates from Wadi Mousa and Shobak were slim. Had any of the contestants withdrew their candidacy, their chances to secure a seat in the House would have been greater.

In addition, tribes in the city of Ma'an were more coherent in their support for their candidates than tribes in the two neighbouring towns.

"This is not fair," complained a Wadi Mousa resident. "There is no chance for Wadi Mousa and Shobak to win any seats in parliament as long as they are part of the Ma'an constituency."

Awad Khleifat was the first deputy to represent Wadi Mousa in parliament from 1993-1997 only after the people of the town nominated him as their single candidate.

Hamarnah wins Madaba Christian seat

AMMAN (J.T.) — In Madaba, predictions proved correct, both for the Christian and the three Muslim seats allocated to this newly created constituency.

Rivalries within the largest tribe, the Azizat, who split their votes among three candidates, favoured another tribe's candidate, Nasha' at Hamarnah.

Aphysician with a past as a Ba'athist militant, Mr. Hamarnah was also the only politicised candidate of the seven contestants running for the Christian seat.

As for the two allocated Muslim seats, one of them was won by former Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Mohammad Azzaydeh (3,664 votes), who was punished with expulsion for defying the movement's boycott directive.

Mr. Azzaydeh was a favourite not only for his political stands, but also for his strong tribal base.

Engineer Ali Abu Rbeha won the second Muslim seat, with 2,785 votes.

Mr. Abu Rbeha was one of five nominees of the 30,000-strong Bani Hamida tribe, including former Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakanbeh, Ibrahim Breizat, Jamal Rawahneh, Ali Hrouit, a professor at Muta University.

Souf refugee wins Jerash seat

AMMAN (J.T.) — Out of the 22 candidates running for the two Muslim seats of the upgraded governorate of Jerash, Riad Ahmad Othman, representing Jordanians of Palestinian origin won the elections with 4,335 votes.

Othman relied mainly on the 5,000 votes of Souf refugee camp.

Former Deputy and Minister of State Mufleh Ahmad Ruheimi won for the second time with a total of 4,192 votes.

Ruheimi, one of the seven candidates representing the Bani Hassan tribe, who is also considered as a "stealth" candidate of the National Constitutional Party, had won the 1993 elections with 4,893 votes.

Jerash candidates were mainly comprised of independents who included no opposition figures or representatives of any party, which, according to observers would have jeopardised their tribal backing.

According to statistics by the election's press centre, the number of registered voters in Jerash is 52,105, with a percentage of 94.11 collected cards.

Former speaker retains seat

AMMAN (J.T.) — In the Northern Bedouin District, incumbent Sa'd Hayel Srour, former speaker of the Lower House retained his seat with 6,281 votes. Mr. Srour, a centrist, was facing a tough competition not only from the tribal candidates in his constituency but also from his own brother, Abdullah, who is an engineer.

The second seat allocated for the Northern Bedouin District was secured by Deifallah K'eiber, also a centrist. Mr. K'eiber won 4,683 votes. In the 1993 elections, it was the late Nawaf Qadi from the powerful Bani Kahled clan who secured the seat for the first three years before he died from a heart attack on the House's floor. His brother Trad Qadi, who this year did not run, won the by-elections to replace the late deputy.

The number of candidates in this constituency stood at 14 after one candidate, Mohammad Salem Otheimat, withdrew from the race.

For many observers, the result in the Central Bedouin District was a surprise. The traditional leaders and former deputies, Jamal Khreisheh and Mohammad Adoub Ziben, lost their bid for two newcomers Saleh Jbour and Ghazi Al Fayez. Both deputies were running for the first time.

In the previous parliament, the two seats were taken by Dr. Ziben, who won in the two previous parliaments in 1989 and in 1993, but lost his bid this year and Mr. Khreisheh, a candidate on the National Constitutional Party (NCP) ticket, who did not fare so well this time around.

The Central Bedouin constituency is the only district of the three bedouin constituencies in which a woman candidate, Insaf Ka'abneh, was competing among 20 contestants.

The NCP lost its bid in the Southern Bedouins District as well when it fielded former Deputy Mohammad Odeh Nijadat. The two bedouin seats went to tribal leaders Abdullah Jazi and Bakht Manay'ah. Mr. Jazi, a centrist, is a former minister of state and former secretary general of post and telecommunications. Mr. Manay'ah, a tribal Sheikh, was announced as an Islamist deputy.

Momani, Annab, Haddad win in Ajloun

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hazem Momani won the first of two Muslim seats in Ajloun with 3,353 votes, in Tuesday's elections; and former Former 11th Parliament Deputy Ahmad Annab lived up to the expectations and won the second seat with 2,895 votes.

Hazem Momani got the lion's share of votes relying mainly on his tribe even though he is one of four Momani candidates contesting the parliamentary elections.

Ajloun's only Christian seat contested by 14 candidates, went to Rida Haddad who won with only 885 votes.

According to official data, the total of registered voters in Ajloun is 55,488 and 94.81 collected their cards.

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Toujan loses 3rd District seat to rival Moula

AMMAN (AFP) — Jordan's only female elected member of Parliament, dubbed the Iron Lady by the country's press, lost her seat in Tuesday's legislative elections.

Toujan Faisal, one of 17 women out of 524 candidates for the Lower House of Parliament, lost her seat in Amman's Third District to independent Nayef Moula, officials said.

Ms. Faisal — whose sister Leila was also a candidate and also lost —

regularly spoke out against Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali's government and had accused it of vote-rigging in the run-up to the election.

No women won in Tuesday's elections.

Ms. Faisal, 48, was standing for a Circassian seat under a quota system for minority groups — Christians, in addition to Chechens and Circassians, descendants of migrants from the Caucasus in 19th century. Jordanian women were

given the vote and the right to stand as candidates in 1974 but did not get the chance to exercise this freedom until the 1989 election, the first in 22 years, when 12 female candidates stood. The country boasts one of the highest rates of women in the workforce in the Arab World and women have held prominent public positions, including posts as Cabinet ministers and senator.

Arabic plans emergency



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